

# 09/18/24 Buckingham EAC Meeting Minutes

**Present:** J. Walter, D. Smith, A. Strout, R. Foster

**Absent:** D. Robb, S. Yerkes

**Visitors:** J. DeBoyace (CB East rep), L. Mein, N. Lykon

## Administration

- Chairman Walter called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm
- The minutes from the July 17, 2024 meeting were approved as amended
- The Meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm
- Next meeting: October 16, 2024 at 7 pm at Township Hall, upstairs small meeting room

## Audubon Birdtown USA Designation

- Diane Smith provided a draft resolution to the members for comment prior to submission to the supervisors for approval. This is required before our application can be approved. Our application is being completed with help from township employees.
- Next Steps:
  - Update EAC website guidance: how to turn private yard/school property/other public property into bird friendly areas.
  - Acquire and install a designation plaque and educational/informational signs.
  - Upon designation, Buckingham would have opportunity to advance from a Green Certification to Bronze, Silver and Gold levels by incorporating 6 strategies, including municipal actions, school district actions, community engagement, habitat enhancement, collaboration and advocacy

## Local Climate Action Program (LCAP)

- It was agreed that this item will become a standing agenda item until the executable Climate Action Plan (CAP) is completed
- Background: Buckingham has been accepted into the LCAP program, jointly run by the PA Department of Environmental Protection and Penn State Institute of Sustainability. Two Penn State graduate students have been assigned to the township to assist with the drafting of a climate action plan (CAP), which is expected to be ready for review by May 2025
- Andrea Strout met virtually with the grad students approximately two weeks ago and will continue to meet with them approximately semi-monthly. With the help of township administrators, the students are currently pulling and updating township energy usage data for benchmarking purposes

## Giant Corporation Tree Planting Grant

Unfortunately, the township was not designated as a grant recipient; Giant received many more grant applications than they were able to fulfill.

### **10 Million Trees Grant**

Buckingham has been awarded 100 trees, which will be installed on November 5 with the assistance of CB East students.

### **Bucks Beautiful Grant**

We have applied for this grant to replace the larger trees installed by the township in Holicong Park that have been damaged and/or are dying.

### **Holicong Park Meadow Creation Update**

- Background: A \$10,000 PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) grant was awarded to Buckingham Twp in December 2023 to create a 1.93 acre meadow at Holicong Park with informative plaques. Doylestown is also installing a similar meadow in their Township under same grant program
- **Due to a delay in the bid process, the project has been postponed to 2025**

### **Sensory Garden Update**

- Members of the Master Gardeners have reviewed the proposed Holicong Park location and are pleased with the placement and ease of access. Design work has begun to result in a formal proposal for presentation to Supervisors for consideration

### **Community Outreach**

- Fall EAC Seminar Series: the need for and practicality of planning and delivering an educational seminar series was debated. It was deemed impractical and unlikely to succeed, given how busy people are in the November – December time frame. A February series as was done previously is considered more likely to be successful. Recommended focus is once again water: well water, surface water, wastewater, water contaminants (particularly PFOAs and similar) and the use, maintenance and operation of the township's spray fields

### **Visitor Concerns**

- Laura Mein brought the upcoming Penn State series of septic systems to the attention of the members
- She also reminded the members that the best time for dealing with the township's Japanese knotweed issue is now

Respectfully submitted,

Diane L. Smith

9/22/24