**ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMISSION**

**BUCKINGHAM TOWNSHIP**

**April 16, 2025**

**Minutes (Amended)**

**Attendees:**

* **Present:** Jim Walter, Donald Robb, Ruth Foster, Diane Smith, Supervisor Maggie Rash
* **Visitors:**  Stephanie Weisser, Owen Zalme,

**Administration**

* Chairman Walter called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm
* The minutes from the March 19, 2025 meeting were approved
* The Meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm
* Next meeting: May 21, 2025 at 7 pm at Township Hall Upstairs small meeting room

**Climate Action Plan update - Jim Walter**

* February 25, 2025 – 6:30 PM – presentation of first semester preliminary findings at Supervisors Work Session
* Penn State Sustainability Institute interns are reviewing 56 page draft CAP. Upon completion, highlights of the final CAP will be presented to supervisors at work session 5 pm Wednesday April 23, 2025.
* CAP includes greenhouse gas reduction and energy transition plan using 2005 data baseline to present.

**Audubon Birdtown USA Designation Update – Diane Smith**

* Application to Audubon Society to designate Buckingham Township as a certified Pennsylvania Birdtown.
* March 26, 2025 Supervisor Meeting: Resolution was approved.
* Birdtown Signage will be located in various entry points into the Township and at town parks.
* Committee: Diane Smith, Barbara Rintala, Stephanie Weisser, Linda Carol Gray, Linda DeMario

**Holicong Park Meadow Creation Update - Jim Walter and Owen Zalme**

* A $10,000 PA Department of Natural Resources (PADNR) grant was awarded to Buckingham Twp in December 2023 to create a 1.93 acre meadow at Holicong Park with informative plaques.
* March 26, 2025 Supervisor Meeting: project plan was approved
* Benefit: Habitat expansion, education opportunity for community, additional stormwater management

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* Next Steps:
  + DNR will award bid to a contractor and notify Buckingham Parks and Rec to review schedule and plan
  + Planting: Proposed meadow plantings include deer resistant perennials supplied by heritage Conservancy and Bowmans
  + Longterm Maintenance: mow perimeter, Buckingham takes over Maintenance 1 year after completion
  + Timing: August 2025 to Spring 2026
    - August/September 2025 - application of herbicide to remove grass
    - September/October – 2-3 week tilling/planting seeds; install informative signs
    - Spring 2026 – Spring blooms, contractor will do first mowing; long term maintenance plan
  + Communications: article in the local paper; website update with guidance on how an individual can develop a wildflower meadow. Buckingham and the Conservation District will schedule a Town Hall public information roundtable event

**Storm Drain Markers – Stephanie Weisser**

* Buckingham has acquired 600 additional public information markers for storm drains to prevent contaminated surface water discharge to streams, creeks, wetlands, etc.
* Buckingham EAC will reach out to Scout troops and high school honor society and environmental clubs for assistance installing the markers.
* Heritage development on Route 263 in Furlong will receive up to 500 of the drain markers.

**Update Buckingham Tree List**

* Buckingham is pursuing updating the 2009 municipal planting and tree list - the list is currently divided by street trees, community subdivision trees, perennials, etc. Native plants will be emphasized.
* Buckingham will apply for an Arbor Day Foundation Tree City USA designation
* Guidance also available from PA State Forester, local nurseries, master gardeners, sensory garden workers, consultant and resident Carol Manicone.
* Inventory trees within the Township of exceptional natural and historic value and pursue designation and protection.
* Update Tree Ordinance to prevent removal of more than 20% of trees over a designated diameter – consider other local model ordinances. Ex Doylestown.

**Upcoming Events**

**Spring Native Plant Sale**

* Saturday May 17, 2025 – Hansell Park Pavillion 10 am-12 noon
* Pre-orders will not be taken

**Arbor Day Tree Planting and Dedication Ceremony**

* April 25, 2025 6:30 pm - Arbor Day Buckingham Ceremony at Township Hall.
* There will also be a small tree giveaway.

**Earth Day Spring Clean Paper Shredding and Waste Collection Event**

* Saturday April 26 and Sunday April 27 - 8 am- 4pm
  + Twp Municipal Yard - 4991 Upper Mountain Road
  + Note: 4/26 - paper shredding only at CBEAST – 10 am to noon

**Bucks County Conservation Community – Native Plant Educational Event**

* May 10, 2025 - Wrightstown Grange from 9:30 am – 1:00 pm Buckingham will have a table with information on Native Plants
* Other Environmental Groups and Municipal Environmental Advisory Commission representatives will be present.
* Note: Penn State Master Gardeners will hold their native plant sale at Middletown Grange ( 576 Penns Park Road) in Newtown May 3 from 9 am-1 pm.

**Next EAC Meeting - Wednesday May 21, 2025 – 7 pm Twp Hall**