**ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMISSION**

**BUCKINGHAM TOWNSHIP**

**March 19, 2025**

**Meeting Notes**

**Attendees:**

* **Present:** Jim Walter, Donald Robb, Andrea Strout, Ruth Foster
* **Visitors:**  Stephanie Weisser, Lisa Braud, Supervisor Maggie Rash

**Administration**

* Chairman Walter called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm
* The minutes from the February 21, 2025 meeting was approved
* The Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm
* Next meeting: April 16, 2025 at 7 pm at Township Hall Upstairs small meeting room

**Climate Action Plan update - Andrea Strout**

* February 25, 2025 – 6:30 PM – presentation of first semester preliminary findings at Supervisors Work Session
* Penn State Sustainability Institute interns are assisting Buckingham through the end of the academic year to develop a Climate Action Plan. The Twp completed an Energy Audit for Municipal buildings.
  + Public questions were raised regarding solar energy
  + Interns suggested that Buckingham prepare a goal oriented and achievable Energy Transition Plan using greenhouse gas (GG) data back to 2005 as a baseline for GG reduction over time
  + Buckingham has achieved a reduction in GG emissions since 2005 with an accelerated decrease between 2013-2025
  + Buckingham has also document a decrease in energy use at municipal buildings since 2005.

**Audubon Birdtown USA Designation Update**

* Diane Smith submitted an application to Audubon Society July 2024 to designate Buckingham Township as a certified Pennsylvania Birdtown.
* March 26, 2025 Supervisor Meeting: Resolution will be presented for approval.
* Birdtown Signage will be located in various entry points into the Township
* Committee: Diane Smith, Barbara Rintala, Stephanie Weisser, Linda Carol Gray, Linda DeMario

**Spring Seminar Discussion**

* Rescheduled from Winter 2025
* Draft Topics: Spray Fields – use, importance, benefit to community, safe infiltration of treated water; PFOS Public Water Supply Treatment Update; Private well owner PFOS testing guidance update
* Date: TBD

**Storm Drain Markers**

* 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.
* A previous installation effort was conducted in neighborhoods along Cold Spring Creamery Road in 2006.

**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.
* April 25, 2025 – Arbor Day Buckingham Ceremony at Township Hall at \_6:30-7:30 PM Free tree giveaway.

**Spring Native Plant Sale**

* Saturday April 19, 2025 – Hansell Park Pavillion 10 am-12 noon
* Currently not taking pre-orders

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

* May 10, 2025 - Wrightstown Grange *Time: 10-12AM*
* Buckingham will have a table with info on Native Plants
* Other Environmental Groups and Municipal Environmental Advisory Commission representatives will be present.

**Holicong Park Meadow Creation Update**

* 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 will be 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 2024 - 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; longterm 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 focused on meadow construction – link to Penn State Extension <https://extension.psu.edu/downloadable/download/sample/sample_id/69138/>
    - Educational information signs installed at the site; signs to not mow habitat tall grass, only access perimeter