

07/16/25 Buckingham EAC Meeting Minutes

Present: Jim Walter, Diane Smith, Andrea Strout

Absent: Ruth Foster, Don Robb, S. Yerkes

Visitors: Stephanie Weisser, Owen Zalme

Administration

- Chairman Walter called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm
- In the absence of a quorum the minutes from the June meeting were tabled
- The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm
- In keeping with tradition, there will be no August meeting. Next meeting: September 17, 2025 at 7 pm at Township Hall upstairs small meeting room

Climate Action Plan update—Andrea Strout

- We still have NOT received our EAP review/update from the Penn State Sustainability Institute interns. Andrea is considering working directly with Ickley.
- CAP includes greenhouse gas reduction and energy transition plan using 2005 data baseline to present.
- **Next Step:** Finalize draft prior to scheduling a follow-up meeting with township supervisors, township manager and other relevant township officials and partners to present final EAP

Audubon Birdtown USA Designation Update—Diane Smith

- The Township will receive our official certification Pennsylvania Birdtown at the July 23 meeting.

Storm Drain Markers – Stephanie Weisser

- Placing drain markers delayed due to inclement weather. Stephanie advised that Hearthstone has a new HOA president who will need to be brought up to speed on the project

Holicong Park meadow creation update—Jim Walter and Owen Zalme

- Due to delays in approving the state budget by the legislature in Harrisburg funding for the project is not available to begin this fall and is delayed to Spring 2026
- Communications: Andrea Strout submitted an article to the Bucks County Herald about conversion of lawns to meadows and its benefits. Website will be updated with guidance on how an individual can develop a wildflower meadow on their property. Buckingham and the Conservation District will schedule a Town Hall public information roundtable event

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.
- Jim Walter is still waiting to hear from the State Forester for guidance on appropriate trees
- **Next Steps:**
 - Buckingham will apply for an Arbor Day Foundation Tree City USA designation
 - Jim Walter has consulted with PA State Forester, local nurseries, master gardeners, sensory garden workers, and residents for input on tree list.
 - Residents have reacted with enthusiasm to our request for information on their trees within the Township of exceptional natural and historic value. Brittany Clark is receiving and collating the information.

Tax Building Planting Project

- Jim Walter, Diane Smith and two Master Gardeners met at the tax building on the corner of Rt 413 and Hughesian Drive to review the site and make recommendations for native plants and their location
- **Next Steps:** When a plan is developed, present to Bucks Beautiful and Township to identify funding sources, a construction schedule for as early as Fall 2025 as well as volunteer list to perform

construction. We will request sod cutting and compost from the township maintenance folks when the project is ready to begin

Holicong Day in the Park

- On Thursday June 26, 2025, 11 am to 2 pm at Holicong Park, the EAC was represented by Jim Walter, Andrea Strout and Diane Smith. Over 50 residents picked up literature and many children “build a river” activity.

Holicong Park Sensory Garden

- The project has been canceled due to a change in advisors

Next EAC meeting is Wednesday September 17, 2025 at 7 pm in Township Building