

Springfield Township Environmental Advisory Committee STEAC Monthly Meeting Minutes

December 17, 2013

<u>Members</u>		<u>Attending</u>	<u>Members</u>		<u>Attending</u>
Jim Davis	Ward 1	Yes	Michael Christopher	Ward 6	Yes
Todd McGarvey	Ward 4	No	Ken Rapp	Ward 6	Yes
Mark McGann	Ward 5	Yes	Margaret Hilsbos	Ward 7	Yes
Lori Devlin	Health Officer	No			

Ann Jackson, Springfield resident
Rocco Masticolo, Springfield resident

Action items in bold.

Mike called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

Public Comment

1. No public comment.

General Business

2. Approval of minutes: Committee voted to approve the minutes from October. (Note: the November meeting was cancelled).
3. Resident letter regarding the golf course run-off / flooding issue. Todd spoke with commissioner Dan Lanciano and was told that it is being addressed. **Mike will email Lori for more details as to what is being done.**
4. Bamboo ordinance. Per Ken, in November Rose Valley enacted a bamboo ordinance. This was spearheaded by Roger Lantham and the Rose Valley EAC. Ken read some details from the ordinance. Ken had forwarded the ordinance to the committee members by email.
 - Relevance to Springfield: Ann mentioned that she knows of at least one Springfield resident with an issue of a neighbor's bamboo encroaching on their property. Ann also mentioned that Rolling Green park has a large growth of bamboo. Margaret mentioned a patch on the west side of Sproul Road south of 420, which seems to be spreading from a resident's yard.
 - Ecological impact: bamboo is extremely invasive and crowds out native species, negatively impacting habitat.
 - Should the committee recommend a similar ordinance be enacted in Springfield? Ann suggests that we check with property owners who have bamboo on their property and find out how they feel. Mark suggests that this could be included in the commissioners' newsletters. We could schedule a special topic meeting in the spring. Margaret suggested that if this were to be implemented perhaps we could help with bulk purchase of barrier material and installation. **Ken and Mark will generate a draft information item to be sent with the commissioner's newsletters and/or submitted to local paper.**

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STEAC Organization

5. Mike reminded committee that election of officers will occur next month.

Coordinators' reports

6. CRC : Ken reported on the CRC annual banquet, which he attended. It was announced at the banquet that Anne Murphy is stepping down as director; the new director is Brian Byrnes. Guest speaker from Brandywine Conservancy gave a talk about birds. Ken said he was inspired that we should have birdhouses around our bio-retention area. Ann mentioned that Haverford Reserve has bird house kits and would help with which type of birds we should expect to attract; also the Audubon society or other organizations might have grants for creating a wildlife habitat. The idea was raised that we might be able to get students involved in making bird houses in wood shop. This might also tie in with environmental apprenticeship program we are developing. **Ann will try to find some more information on grant funding, kits, etc.**
7. DCVA: Ann reported on the Watersheds Roundtable event hosted by DCVA on November 9 and provided a printed summary of the event. DCVA's Annual Meeting will be held January 25th at the Haverford Reserve.
8. Website: members should be accessing the wiki and maintaining their pages and adding information.
9. Planning commission: no report, Todd not present.

STEAC Calendar/Monthly Activities

Storm Water BMP Park Project

10. Maintenance Plan: Ann discussed the actions needed for the asters: over the winter, let the seed heads be so that more plants will seed naturally. They should be cut back in spring and again a few times before end of July to make shorter and bushier, otherwise they should be staked. **Ann will send the by-plant (individual plant) maintenance list via email to us. Margaret will add this to the wiki.**
11. Maintenance: Ken reported that he goes by the area every weekend and has cleared leaves. He also mentioned that the lower basin is currently a "skating rink" with about 2 feet of water iced over.
12. Environmental apprenticeship: Mark reported that he and Ken collaborated to produce a draft handout which Mark passed out to the committee for feedback. Next steps: Mark will find out when the school group's January meeting will be held; he will work with Ken to be prepared to address that meeting. **Committee members are to review the draft handout and submit feedback to Ken and Mark within a week.**
13. Signage: Ken reported that he has received comments from committee members. **Ken will prepare a final draft and send to members within 2 weeks; comments or corrections on that draft are to be provided within a week.** Ken will then send final draft to Lori to send out for production.
14. PA DEP Grant application period: Ken had recently forwarded an email to committee members from the Pennsylvania DEP regarding the opening of the application period for the upcoming round of environmental education grants. The committee discussed and agreed that we won't pursue a grant this year but should note the timing and consider pursuing it next year. Ann suggested that our past presentation for landscapers was a good format, if we need to meet educational requirements for NPDES. Mike mentioned that we need to find out

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if we have educational requirements for NPDES permitting. **Ann will check with Sue Warner as to where Springfield stands on meeting MS4 requirements;** to see if there is anything that the environmental committee can do to help (typically that would fall under education).

Monthly Topic

15. None assigned.

New Business

16. Ken: website received email requesting info about single stream recycling / wheeled bins. Response from township was: commingled is much less revenue for township; wheeled containers wouldn't work with the contractor's trucks that we use.

Upcoming Events:

- 12/19 - CRC - Small scale storm water plan training
- 1/25 – DCVA annual meeting - Haverford Reserve - 8:30 am - 2 pm

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 28, 2014, 7:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Hilsbos