**West Vincent Township Environmental Advisory Council**

**November 3, 2022, 7:00 PM**

**Minutes**

**Present:** Donna Delany, Carys Egan, Elisabeta Sheehan, Wayne Piaskowski, Rachel McKay

**Regrets:** Kathy McDevitt, Victoria Laubach

**Also attending:** Dana Alan, Ken Alan, David Weber, Sara Shick, Yvonne Brownlee, Rebecca Sheehan

**Call Meeting to Order 7:05 PM**

**Minutes from October EAC Meeting**

The minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed.

***Motion: The EAC approves the minutes for the October 6, 2022 meeting.***

**1st: Donna Delany 2nd: Rachel McKay ALL APPROVED.**

**Old Business:**

* **Report on EAC Conference:** Carys Egan and Elisabeta Sheehan reported on an educational and inspirational EAC Fall Gathering held at the Haverford Community Center. Dana Alan presented on behalf of Donna Delany (who was under the weather) about the WVT EAC Pollinator Pitstop Program. Kathy McDevitt was recognized for her work on the Clean Energy website. Carys reported that WVT is seen as a leader and role model by other municipalities when it comes to environmental responsibility. WVT was an early adopter of the Growing Greener Conservation Subdivision Ordinance which was a featured presentation.
* **Report on Lawn Conversion Seminar:** Donna reported on this on-site presentation sponsored by Christina Watersheds Municipal Partnership (CWMP) and attended by her and Dana Alan. Converting mowed lawns to meadows is a high goal in PA. There are multiple benefits: decreased stormwater runoff, improved water quality, enhanced biodiversity, climate change mitigation, etc. Grants to support lawn to meadow conversion should be available to municipalities *and* individual homeowners. There is interest in converting some of Evans Park mowed lawn to meadow. Dana expressed interest in vetting service providers.

**Manager’s Report:** None

**Subdivision/Land Development:** None at this time

**New Business:**

* **Pollinator Pitstop Update:**
* Half a dozen volunteers met Wednesday evening (11/2/22) at Andrew Evans Park to expand the existing pollinator garden by 2 feet using the lasagna garden method. Fall blooming asters and goldenrod will be added to the garden in the Spring once the leaves decompose to hummus.
* On Monday, 11/7/22, West Vincent Elementary School will begin establishing their own pollinator garden using the lasagna garden method. Donna Delany will be there to support the teachers. Going forward, the OJR High School Horticultural Club and Environmental Club may also be involved.
* **WVT Healthy Yard Recognition Program:**
* Elisabeta designed a wonderful logo that can be used for a metal sign to recognize and celebrate healthy yards. She also created a *draft* survey/application that interested property owners can complete to participate in this program. The survey is still in development, but it does provide flexibility (e.g., 2 out of 3, or 3 out of 5 criteria can be met in different categories to qualify). The tentative top tier goals are to avoid chemical treatments and minimize invasive species. Community education and inspiration are important values driving this initiative. The EAC members can review and make suggestions this month, and then vote to send it to the supervisors next month.
* The cost of metal signs needs to be researched before a proposed budget can be presented to the township manager and BOS. It is understood that signs will not be sold, but provided at no cost to residents. There was discussion about a possible application fee ($10?) and/or a “pay it forward” component to encourage residents to participate in one of WVT’s many environmental service initiatives.
* **Nature Club:**
* Winter Tree Identification Walk led by Max McCormick at Opalanie Park at 1 PM on December 3, 2022.
* **Bird Town Subcommittee:**
* The updated Bird Town Resolution still needs to be presented and approved by the BOS. Dana Alan will follow-up when this item will be added to the BOS Agenda. Hopefully, Vic Laubach will be available that night to present.
* Rachel McKay initiated a proposed addition of a Kestrel box to Opalanie Park since young kestrels have been observed in this location, and the species is in deep decline. A good location was proposed to the Parks & Recreation Committee last night by Donna Delany and is under consideration. Jim Moffett of French & Pickering Creek Trust has agreed to make and install a box. Donna will confirm that there will be no charge. He is responsible for the all 3 kestrel boxes at Bryn Coed and the ones at French & Pickering Preserves, so he is very experienced and supportive of this program. Using a game camera during the active nesting season was also discussed. Rachel offered to monitor the box and edit the camera footage. The kestrel box ideally will be installed over the Winter since nesting begins in April.
* Carys Egan reminded the committee that an earlier request had been made for 6 blue bird houses and a martin house to be installed at Opalanie Park. Follow-up is needed.
* **Stormwater Subcommittee:**
* EAC comments and questions need to be submitted to John Granger and Planning Commission. Eg., What is the definition of a stream? Are pets differentiated from livestock and is there a definition of both? What is the highest level of rainfall (10 year storm, 100 year storm, etc.) that can be reasonably be built into ordinances? Our comments need to be sent to John Granger, the supervisors, and the Planning Commission
* An update to the riparian buffer presentation will be given by Vic Laubach and Ed Theurkauf after the Stormwater Ordinance is complete – probably early 2023.
* **Litter Lifter Update** (Carys Egan)**:**
* The WVT Litter Lifters are involved in 5 upcoming clean-ups. Two events are being organized by WVT Litter Lifters, and three are being organized by other municipalities and lead volunteer, Beth Intoccia, is giving support/guidance.
* The next WVT clean-up is November 12 along Route 100. Channel 6 will be there to film and run a story on this community service project.
* Keep Chester County Beautiful program has officially launched with a press release highlighting the inspirational role of the WVT Litter Lifters.
* There is also an article coming out any day featuring the Litter Lifters in the Coventry magazine.
* **Clean Energy Transition Team** (Kathy McDevitt)**:** None
* **Heritage Tree Subcommittee** (Rachel McKay)**:**
* Max McCormick has volunteered to help Rachel McKay and Barb Mako complete this project. Approximately 2/3 of the identified heritage trees have been mapped. Trees still need to be measured.
* Additional outreach is also in order to see if there are other trees that residents would like to be considered.
* **Stream Naming** (Vic Laubach)**:** None
* Wayne Piaskowski is continuing to investigate private roads in WVT and how they impact stormwater management.

**Updates from Other Committees:**

* **BOS** (Sara & Dana): Check out the Draft 2023 Budget put together by John Granger, accessible through the WVT website. There is also a very helpful power point presentation that provides an overview of goals.
* **Park & Rec** (Ken Alan): Improvements at Opalanie Park are a work in progress. P&R will be planning more Movie Nights, another Community Day, and working to bring back the Turkey Trot next year. Improvements to Andrew Evans Park are also being discussed, including pickle ball and gaga ball. There will also be a free photo session at Evan Park of Pets with Santa on November 26, 2022.
* **Phoenixville Regional Planning Committee**: None
* **Sustainability:** None
* **Planning Commission:** None
* **Open Space Advisory Council**: None
* **Historic Commission:** None

**Comments or Questions from the floor**:

***Motion to adjourn meeting.***

**1st: Rachel 2nd: Wayne ALL APPROVED**

**Meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.**