

UWCHLAN ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
Monthly Meeting
March 17, 2021

The meeting was called to order by Laura Obenski at 6:30 p.m.

Present: EAC members Laura Obenski, Toni Gorkin, Alexa Manning, Kathy Sotak, Nicholas Kurtz, and Tawnya McCain; Scott Greenly and Mayme Baumann from the Township; and Jenny Brower from Parks & Rec Committee. Public attendees included John Neilson and Jackie Pickering.

Meeting Minutes of the regular meeting of 1/20/21 and notes of the workgroup meeting of 2/18/21 were accepted.

Business:

- Developer's Guide to Sustainable Development Practices - Toni reviewed the purpose of the packet she has been developing to provide information, references, and suggested sources to assist those developing properties in Uwchlan Township to explore the potential to adopt environmentally sustainable practices during their projects. The information in the Guide provides information about green practices related to trees, native plants, stormwater management, and other environmental best management practices.
- 2021 EAC Education Series
 - a. On April 13 at 7:00 pm Sharon Richardson will talk on "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner? Planting to provide a buffet for pollinators."
 - b. On May 11 at 7:00 pm a replay of a recording on Nature's Best Hope by Douglas Tallamy will be presented.
 - c. On June 22 at 7:00 pm Connie Schmotzer will talk on Suburban Yard to Native Landscape
 - d. Stormwater Management for Homeowners - a specific date was not set but Tanya is preparing for a Q&A presentation with pictures of sites that need improvements. Discussion included how the discussion could be targeted to Homeowners Associations as well as homeowners. Emphasis should be placed on clearing storm drains.
 - e. The date of July 12 was set for a presentation on Clean Energy.
- Earth Week Campaign - week of April 19th
 - a. Township litter clean-up - a competition internal to Township teams is being planned, among committees, departments, etc. Teams will self-report on the number of bags, pictures will be taken. Scott will provide information on disposal of the trash. The EAC members will need to encourage Township teams to form and participate.

- b. Alexa noted that dog waste is a pollution problem in our parks. She suggested Parks and Recs put out signs and social media be used to encourage proper disposal.
- c. Other ideas discussed included:
 - i. Native plant displays with local businesses was discussed. However, it will be hard to have plants to display as early as April.
 - ii. Earth week book display and read aloud - it was noted that some initiatives are already scheduled in the libraries, etc.
 - iii. Social media campaign
 - iv. Toni has obtained special edition Earth Week packets of milkweed seeds to distribute.
 - v. Alexa will keep communicating with the Chester County Environmental Alliance Earth Day /month.

Reports:

- **Land Use** - Laura reported that during the last BOS meeting an extension was approved for the Gray Property and for a monitoring well just offsite. The well is related to DEP's characterization of contamination moving off site.
- **Ready for 100/Energy Planning** - Alexa reported she, Laura, and Tawnya have been drafting the Township's Energy Transition Plan, with guidance from the regional Ready for 100 group. Input from Township was added. It is a long, involved document which will be a work in progress, but the committee has identified priority actions and obtained consensus on what the Township will focus on. Laura expressed thanks to Alexa for her efforts during the extensive education and work.
- **Heart of Uwchlan** - Toni reported on live staking at the new garden. She suggested a contest to name that garden. Seeds will germinate soon and the milkweed and streamside gardens will be replenished starting in May. The Rain Garden proposed by Bruce McKenney needs planning; Laura will assist with an email to get Nick in touch with Bruce.
- **Parks & Recreation/Historical Commissions** - Kathy attended the last Parks & Rec meeting. She introduced the EAC; there were lots of questions and ideas for collaboration, for example extending the incorporation of native plants and nature scaping into additional parks and areas. Alexa noted there are a lot of first order streams in our township, presenting opportunities for implementing buffers and better mowing practices. Kathy will continue to attend the Parks & Rec meetings, but someone is needed to attend the Historic Commission meetings.

Announcements

4/7 7:30 pm Planning Commission
4/8 7:30 pm Historical Commission
4/12 7:30 pm Board of Supervisors
4/13 7:00 pm Guess Who's Coming to Dinner Virtual EAC Event
4/15 6:30 pm Environmental Advisory Council
4/22 EARTH DAY

The meeting was opened to the public for comments and questions. Comments were as follows:

Jenny Brower noted that Radnor township and other Main Line townships have composting in their parks. She asked if we could do something similar.

It was noted that a 9-hole disc golf course is being installed in Shamona Main park.

A Regional EAC Network Conference was set for April 10. Several of our EAC members will attend, and Toni will report on Heart of Uwchlan to the Community Engagement panel.

Upper Uwchlan is starting an EAC.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:37 p.m.