

Swarthmore Environmental Advisory Council
MEETING MINUTES
May 26, 2015

In Attendance: Susan Kelly, Chair; Members: Nancy English, Douglas Hasbrouck, Fintan McHugh, Tracy Bouvette; Associate Member: Jon Penders; Lauren McKinney, representative of Borough Council.

Called to Order – 7:35

Minutes for the February and April 2015 meetings were approved as submitted.

Old Business:

Growing Green Grant:

No news to report. Tracy will check into progress and report at next meeting.

Park Use Ordinance:

Sue indicated that Borough Council was in the process of reviewing and approving revised language associated with use of the Borough parks. The revised language had been circulated to EAC members and associates for comment. Discussion centered on use of herbicides, as are proposed for the Bamboo removal and control, reasonable in the park. EAC found that, at least for the bamboo control adjacent to the Kandestin's home, it would be ill advised as planned (according to an email from Borough Council person David Grove to the home owners) since the proposed herbicide (Liberator 711) has acute toxicity through the skin and poisoning happens with repeated exposures (which would be needed to control the bamboo).

Tracy was tasked with writing an email to Lauren to share with Borough Council regarding the concerns of the EAC. The concerns included: proximity to the residence, persistence in the environment, acute and chronic toxicity of the herbicide, size of the application, and timing of resident's expected child.

Little Crum Creek Park Bamboo:

See above

New Business:

Little Crum Creek Park Maintenance:

Sue indicated that the EAC responsibility to maintain the Borough parks, especially Little Crum Creek Park has become to great a burden without additional support from Borough staff. Not only is the lack of person power from the Borough and volunteers an issue, but the Borough does not provide financial support for maintenance either. The EAC, working with the Borough, needs to devise a plan for the future sustainability of the parks, including maintenance and upkeep.

Announcements:

CORPOS

Sue and Jon suggested that EAC members attend the CORPOS community meeting on May 27th at the Wallingford Elementary School to discuss park coordinators, funding and overall needs for regional open space planning. All in attendance agreed that maintenance is always an issue (“we need to take care of what we have”), and so that will be a strong message at the meeting. It will also be a wonderful opportunity to see what others are doing.

Swarthmore College

Jon indicated that the College has a number of projects that are either ongoing or in planning including a new dorm off Chester and Harvard, a parking lot by Cunningham, and expansion at Whittier Place. These projects will provide for more student housing, parking and classroom area.

Upcoming Events:

- Swarthmore EAC meeting June 23rd, 7:30 pm Community Room (Joint Meeting with MMEAC)

Adjourned 9:00

Minutes submitted by Tracy Bouvette