

Swarthmore Environmental Advisory Council
MEETING MINUTES
November 22, 2016

In Attendance: Susan Kelly, Chair; members Nancy English, Fintan McHugh, Tracy Bouvette. Also in attendance, associate members Phil Coleman, Ashley Grider, Annie Fox; Lauren McKinney, Borough Council liaison. A quorum was present.

The October minutes were approved as circulated.

Old Business:

Grants:

The Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Parks and Open Space (CORPOS) plan was initially discussed. Susan reported that a final draft of the plan will be presented to the Task Force, which should meet in mid-December to discuss any recommendations included in the plan for Swarthmore Borough, and then the plan will be presented at a public meeting.

Growing Greener Planning Grant:

Tracy reported that the contractor for this grant has not been responsive, and he has been waiting for months for alternative proposals to be submitted for the storm-water improvements around the Swarthmore Swim Club. Once we have the proposal, we will need to have a public meeting with adjacent property owners, including PECO and the Swarthmore Swim Club. The contractor will then prepare a permit-ready design. Because the Growing Greener III deadline is January 17, 2017, we do not anticipate reaching that deadline, and a submission will have to be made under a subsequent Growing Greener program. Tracy indicated that he would talk to Jane Billings about following up with the contractor (KCI), as they have not responded to his calls.

Delaware County Conservation District Mini-Grant:

On short notice, Doug, Tracy, and Susan filled out the grant application and obtained a \$500 grant for stream-bank stabilization at Little Crum Creek Park. It is anticipated that this will be used for trees or other plantings along the eroded stream bank to the west of the foot bridge over Little Crum Creek. In terms of a plan, it was discussed that we might seek volunteer services of a botanist or other expert. Jeff Jabco was mentioned as one possible source for recommendations, and a solicitation could also be placed in *The Swarthmorean*. The selections would need to be purchased by April 1st for planting season.

A Few Steps:

Phil discussed how the recruitment push is underway for new members, with an emphasis on diversifying the membership and recruiting younger volunteers. He plans to submit information to *The Swarthmorean* and on *Next Door Swarthmore*.

It's Not Trash:

Nancy discussed how she, Ashley, and Steven have been working on formatting information to be made available to the public, including a list of items and where they can be disposed. Initially, it is anticipated that this information would be posted on the Swarthmore Borough website, and then would possibly move to its own website. Annie Fox indicated that she was interested in helping with this process. Phil also suggested Susie O'Donnell as someone from his organization who would also be interested in helping, as she has independently started a similar process on her own.

Little Crum Creek Park:

It was discussed that work days would be postponed until the spring weather returns. Early spring would also be a time when the Borough Public Works Department would be able to demolish the underused fireplaces in the park, as the workers are less busy with snow plowing.

Susan discussed the well-attended meeting set up by Ben Berger of the Lang Center and the Swarthmore College Sustainability Office, where she participated as a panelist. A survey after this meeting confirmed significant interest on behalf of Green Advisers interested in working with the EAC. It was discussed that afternoons might be better than mornings to increase volunteer participation. The fact that Saturdays conflict with sports schedules was cited as an additional reason why afternoons would be better, potentially on Sundays instead of Saturdays. Susan plans to follow up with the Sustainability Office with requests for volunteers in the spring. Melissa Tier is the student coordinator for the Green Advisers and the President's Sustainability Research Fellows.

New Business:

The Mariner East Pipeline Proposal of Concern was unanimously passed by Borough Council, without debate. Lauren mentioned that next steps could include revisions to the zoning ordinance as a protective measure for the future. Specifically, zoning setbacks (such as prohibitions of pipelines within so many feet of a school, etc.) could be proposed. Lauren intends to follow up with Mary Walk of Borough Council about these ideas. Although the risk might be minimal that such pipelines would cross through Borough territory, a well-drafted ordinance could be pushed out to other municipalities that had a greater risk.

Milk Weed Planting:

Susan discussed that the early spring is not ideal for planting. Catherine Smith at Red Bud Nurseries advised that late May might be a good time for planting. Tracy mentioned that this could potentially be something for which the \$500 mini-grant could be used.

Kitchen Harvest:

Melissa and Susan have discussed with Chris Peretti of Kitchen Harvest about raw compost pickups within the Borough. They would like Chris to do a presentation with the EAC and college in order to make this a more active practice in the Borough.

Recruitment and Committee Involvement:

It was discussed among the members how the time is right for the membership on the EAC, and how membership involvement could be improved through committee assignments. There are a couple of individuals who are interested in joining the EAC, and it was discussed how the terms for Nancy and Fintan were expiring at the end of 2016, although they can renew for another term if they wish. Tracy indicated that he would do a poster for recruitment to post in borough hall. It was also discussed that the EAC could coordinate efforts with the Swarthmore Borough Tree Committee on various issues.

Recording secretary,
Fintan McHugh

Next Meeting January 24, 2017
