

**Swarthmore Environmental Advisory Council**  
**23 May 2017 Meeting Minutes**

**Present:** Susan Kelly, Chair; members Tracy Bouvette, Aurora Winslade; associate members Nancy English, Annie Fox, Jennifer Pfluger, and Melissa Tier; Borough Council liaison Lauren McKinney

Guests: Boy Scout Troop 112; Borough resident Mel Jurist.

**Absent:** members Ashley Grider, Matt McCabe, Doug Hasbrouck, Jon Penders; associate members Phil Coleman, Fintan McHugh, and Carlin McCoy.

**Public Comment:**

Boy Scout Troop 112 is observing a community meeting as part of their badge requirements.

**Minutes:**

The minutes of the March and April meetings were not approved because of lack of a quorum.

**Sustainability Office/Students:**

Kemi Oladipo, Swarthmore College student intern, will work on the campus food gardens this summer – Our Food Course Garden, Good Food Student Club Garden, and the new “PPR” dorm garden if construction allows.

Jeff Jabco, Director of Grounds and Coordinator of Horticulture, will give a tour of the new parking lot next to Cunningham fields and other campus water-management projects like the rain garden in front of Palmer Residence Hall on Wednesday June 14<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm starting at the train station. The EAC, Borough Council and the Swarthmore Tree Committee are invited.

**It's Not Trash:**

Annie Fox reported that the project is “going slowly but creeping forward”. She will post to Nextdoor soon to specifically recruit college students home for the summer to help with the project.

There is a Borough electronic recycling event on June 3<sup>rd</sup> from 9am – 1pm. Drop-offs can be made on Myers Ave behind the Co-op.

**Little Crum Creek Park:**

There have been two SRS work days so far with Susan and Matt where students and their families cleaned up the stream and butterfly garden. The “Hogface BBQ” food truck sold food and donated a portion of their proceeds to the EAC. Additional SRS work days are being planned for July and August.

There will be a mass planting and mulching of trees and shrubs on Saturday May 27<sup>th</sup> from 9 until completion, including cage installation around new trees. Snacks, water and lunch will be provided.

Bring shovels and wheelbarrows for mulch. This event is funded by a minigrant (\$500) from the Delaware County Conservation District, donations to the Swarthmore Centennial Foundation for plantings in the park, and from The Chester-Ridley-Crum Creek (CRC) Watersheds Association, which contributed \$500 (as a match to the DCCD minigrant) related to donations received from Indivisible Swarthmore: Moving the Needle.

### **MMEAC meeting:**

The MMEAC unites the 4 communities that are part of the WSSD school district: Rose Valley, Rutledge, Swarthmore and Nether Providence. The former three have more active EACs and want to be involved in WSSD-wide projects.

There was a productive discussion on pesticide and herbicide education on May 8<sup>th</sup> organized by Susan Kelly and attended by Swarthmore EAC representatives Annie Fox and Phil Coleman and representatives from Rose Valley and Rutledge. In order to make public education more effective, the focus will be on what people care about - human and pet health. Tracy asked whether fertilizer pollution was also being considered as part of this education effort. Annie responded that the first meeting resulted in a brainstormed list of issues and education possibilities, and at the next meeting they hope to develop a road map for project goals. For example, pesticides are not universally bad, e.g. judicious use of Roundup is sometimes helpful to control invasives like knotweed and bamboo. An education idea was to offer lawn signs for lawns that qualify as a “bee-friendly lawn” as a way to encourage homeowners to not use pesticides. Another idea was to have public spaces post signs stating when and what pesticides were used in the area.

Mel Jurist offered the kids’ activity table at the Farmers’ Market as way to link with EAC goals, e.g. an activity with beneficial insects.

### **Grants:**

EAC money from the Centennial Foundation is almost gone.

Susan asked for an extension on the \$500 Delaware County Conservation District (DCCD) mini-grant.

### **Report on PA EAC Network Conference**

Annie Fox and Lauren McKinney attended this event in Lancaster on May 6<sup>th</sup> along with approximately 50 other EAC representatives from across the state. They found it productive and reported back on two seminars in particular.

A private consultant gave a seminar about “Valuation of Nature Resources – Determining the Return on Environment” as a way of putting a financial value on natural resources and the services they provide, such as storm water control, recreational value, air purification, etc. Resources from open space to riparian buffers to large trees would be included. Such a valuation would provide figures to balance against the economic benefits of developing land, or the costs of ordinances to protect open spaces, watersheds, etc. Annie provided a handout from the conference on this topic. The total price tag

(~\$7000 – which perhaps could be lowered if the consultant makes use of some studies completed by others) and consultant experience were discussed as issues to consider. Aurora Winslade said the college may also be interested in this approach for the Crum Woods if there were a multi-municipal study.

A seminar about open space funding was given by the National Trust for Public Land, which has experience helping local communities develop successful ballot measures to fund initiation and maintenance of open space. It may be fruitful to partner with such an experienced and successful organization for local open space efforts and it was agreed that this should be pursued as a stable funding source. The Swarthmore EAC does not have any stable budget.

On another note from the conference, Abington has a strong EAC and they get \$20/ton from recyclables for their budget.

**Report from Borough Council:**

The EQAT resolution was passed by Borough Council in April. The carbon charge resolution resolution that Swarthmore College student Aaron Metheny presented to the EAC and was approved by the EAC and sent on to Borough Council will be discussed by Borough Council in September or October when students are back on campus so they can attend the council meeting. This resolution has been endorsed by 33 colleges throughout the U.S. so far.

**Recording Secretary:** Jennifer Pfluger