

Swarthmore Environmental Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

October 24, 2017

Attendees: Susan Kelly (Chair); Members: Matt McCabe, Elizabeth Jenkins, Aurora Winslade; Associate Members: Phil Coleman, Annie Fox; Lauren McKinney (Borough Council Rep); Melissa Tier (Swarthmore College liaison).

Absent: Members Tracy Bouvette, Ashley Grieder, and Doug Hasbrouck; associate members Danielle Callahan, Jennifer Pfluger, and James Verdi.

Approved the August and September minutes.

Trust for Public Lands

Discussion of the proposed Trust for Public Lands partnership to preserve open space or provide funds for conservation of current open space through a ballot measure in Swarthmore Borough. On the EAC's request, a Technical Assistance Request Letter was signed by Borough Council president and sent to the Trust for Public Lands. The Trust for Public Lands had hoped to use the letter to gauge the interest of the William Penn Foundation to determine if they would be willing to fund a feasibility study for Swarthmore Borough.

The Trust for Public Lands recommends trying to put a ballot measure on a year with a high voter turnout (2018, 2020). It takes about 1 year to complete the pre-work, so still have the ability to do 2018 if we can find a funder ASAP.

- Pre-Work, according to the Trust for Public Land's recommendations:
 - i. Technical Assistance Letter from Local Govt. – SENT
 - ii. \$8-10k for a feasibility study: The Trust would research demographics, different funding mechanisms to preserve/maintain space available to Swarthmore, potential to raise the money, etc.
 - 1. If feasible, continue to Step (iii).
 - iii. \$15-20k (likely matched by the Trust) for polling the community: What do people care about, what do they want, how much voters are willing to pay, etc. *Could be other options for communities as small as ours. Another option might be to use college students to bring down the cost.
 - iv. The Trust then helps draft the campaign plan, education plan, etc. and helps coordinate getting the measure on the ballot.
 - 1. If the Trust recommends "yes" based on (ii) and (iii), there is an 80% success rate for getting the measure getting passed.

Our next step is to approach other funders for money for the feasibility study. Perhaps the Centennial Foundation? Lauren will brainstorm with the Mayor. We will also see if our contact at the Trust for Public Lands (Stacy) is available to do a presentation in November at the EAC meeting. If so, we would like to advertise this meeting to the community and Borough Council.

Growing Greener Planning Grant (storm-water management)

- Next Step: Ask Jane about the meeting that she attended with the DEP and the outcome.

Update on the Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation, Parks, and Open Space (CORPOS) plan

- Natural Lands Trust, the designated contractor to complete the studies, has asked for an extension.

Discussed the EAC Budget for 2018

- 6 ft Metal Frame Tables: 2-3 at around \$470 per table (Susan passed around a catalogue of tables and grills that was recommended to her)
- Grills: 2, ranging in price from \$150-200.
- Port-a-Potty: \$200 a month for the summer months.
 - Some of the neighbors have asked for a meeting about the Port-a-Potty.
- Fire pit with Benches: Proposed by James Surplus as an Eagle Scout Project.
 - He met with the Park Sub-Committee on Saturday after the park work day. Discussed plans – concrete base, benches for more people than he had initially thought. He needs to provide an estimate on costs and final plan.
- Other items to note:
 - Gazebo Roof will be paid for by Borough this year since it is a safety hazard. Susan, Matt, and Cuzzy Rowles, Public Works manager, have obtained several quotes.
 - Potential additional dog-waste station will be tackled in 2019 budget.

Borough Council Report

- Dangerous intersection at Yale and Avondale: Jane will talk to Nether Providence Borough Manager. Lauren will continue to follow up.

Little Crum Creek Park

- Work Day with Strath Haven High School Cross-Country Teams
 - It was a great success! Much good work was done. Go check it out if you haven't yet!
 - 2 shovels that were switched, still working on tracking them down. :(
- Susan marked a lot of poison ivy with white paint. She will call around to get some estimates to take it out.
- Tree work completed in park October 23.

Upcoming meeting with SRS Superintendent with Phil Coleman and Tom Shafer

- Members of AFewSteps are looking to expand the “walkable school zone” where kids gather in groups to walk to school vs. get picked up by a bus. Program provides an environmental benefit, a health benefit for the kids, and saves the school money.
- If successful, could be a model for other school districts too.

Swarthmore College Update

- The College has committed to a Zero Waste Goal. 80% diversion rate by 2022. Still working on future dates for the higher %age.
- Waste is a connection between the College and Community so an opportunity for collaboration.
- The conversation led to a brainstorming session about other ways to promote waste reduction in the Borough.
 - This winter: Presentation to local business associations? Community presentation (on composting services, etc)?

Future Events

Oct. 29th: Waste Not, Want Not: Conquering Food Waste and Hunger at Ohev Shalom

Nov. 28th EAC Meeting

Feb. 9th – Swarthmore College Sustainability Summit