

Swarthmore Environmental Advisory Council

September 26, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Present: Susan Kelly, Chair; members Matt McCabe and Elizabeth Jenkins; associate members Annie Fox, Phil Coleman, Jennifer Pfluger, James Verdi, and Danielle Callahan. Borough Council liaison Lauren McKinney.

Absent: members Tracy Bouvette, Ashley Grieder, Doug Hasbrouck, and Aurora Winslade; Swarthmore College liaison, Melissa Tier.

Guests: Matt and Lauren Weir, local residents.

Approval of Minutes

Without a quorum of members present, the August minutes could not be approved.

It's Not Trash

In Ashley's absence, Susan briefly updated the group by reporting that Ashley had successfully gotten Swarthmore College students involved and progress was being made.

A Few Steps

For the benefit of new attendees to the meeting, Phil discussed the history of A Few Steps. Phil updated the group on A Few Steps' collection of e-waste at the Swarthmore Farmers' Market. He explained that currently they were targeting the collection of waste that they could offload to Best Buy.

Little Crum Creek Park

For the benefit of the guests, Susan explained that one of the primary roles of the EAC is to assist in the oversight of Little Crum Creek Park including helping to ensure the park is safe, clean, and well maintained.

Fireplace Demolition/Replacement

Susan explained that the instability of the chimney on the park's main fireplace had led to safety concerns and the recent demolition of the fireplace. She also pointed out that the smaller fireplace near the fence had been cleaned up and a permanent grate had been installed by the members of Public Works. Matt and Lauren discussed their use of the park and the fireplace as a gathering place. The group discussed replacement of the fireplace, potentially with a fire pit, including the possible use of recycled materials, a "cob" oven, or more traditional stone. The discussion on the replacement fireplace led to a broader discussion of park use. Susan explained that in her experience, uses included birthday parties and family picnics.

Jenn suggested initiating a "survey monkey" to ask the public about the park. Such a survey could be posted on Swarthmore Next Door with notices posted in the park and in *The Swarthmorean*. Elizabeth drafted possible questions which included: (i) how do you use the park and how often? (ii) What do you like to see in the park? (iii) Would you like the fireplace replaced? If so, with what sort of structure?

Lauren agreed to raise the issue of fireplace replacement within Borough Council and to assess their thoughts on how to proceed.

Gazebo Roof Replacement

Susan updated the group on efforts to replace the roof for the gazebo in the park. She, Matt, and Doug have been working to get estimates on the repair, but there are fewer contractors that work on metal roofing than expected. For instance, neither Strath Haven Roofing nor McCabe & Sons would repair a metal roof. Some estimates were in process, but other possible contractors are being sought out.

Creek Work Day

Susan explained that the high school cross-country coach has asked about a community project for the team and had agreed to do a clean-up day in Crum Creek Park. Sue and the coach were attempting to find a good day on the calendar, and it looked like October 14th or 21st would work. More information will be forthcoming as details are solidified.

Trust for Public Land

In Aurora's absence, Lauren and Susan updated the group on efforts to work with the Trust for Public Land in Swarthmore. The goal is to secure funding to protect open lands within the Borough. In particular, Henderson Field and the woods near CADES have been suggested as appropriate targets for protection. A letter requesting funding from the William Penn Foundation for a feasibility study has been drafted. It is expected to be approved by Borough Council and signed by Council President David Grove, and then sent on to Stacy McCormack of the Trust. The feasibility study would be the basis for securing funds from the Trust.

Borough Update

Lauren reviewed matters that had been, or are being, raised by her with Borough Council including the plan for the fireplace replacement, pushing forward the process for the Trust for Public Lands and getting the Climate Resolution circulated.

Lauren also raised the idea of approaching the Centennial Foundation for assistance in protecting public lands. The group also discussed the possibility of raising the funds through the implementation of a fee.

Elizabeth, who serves as an alternative on the Planning Commission and as the Commission's liaison to the EAC, updated the group on the Planning Commission's work on a new overall development plan for the borough. She explained that previously the Planning Commission had focused mostly on specific issues and reports.

Phil raised the issue of the bridge over Dick's Run at Avondale and Yale Avenues. Lauren had pursued the issue and reported that the College, on whose land the bridge is, would not be repairing the bridge anytime soon. Nether Providence would need to be involved in any resolution of the area. Lauren agreed to follow-up as appropriate, but pointed out it will be a lengthy process.

Recording secretary,

Matt McCabe