

Swarthmore Environmental Advisory Council
MEETING MINUTES
May 24, 2016

Present: Chair: Susan Kelly. Members: Tracy Bouvette, Doug Hasbrouck, Nancy English. Associate member: Melissa Tier. Liaison with Borough Council: Lauren McKinney. Members of the public: Stephen Lehmann and Ashley Grider.

Minutes from the April meeting were approved.

Public comment regarding recycling information: Stephen Lehmann suggested that the EAC sponsor a one-stop mechanism for people in Swarthmore to find information about recycling and disposing of all kinds of stuff. He presented several examples from other municipalities that covered all sorts of things from aerosol cans to electronics to unused pharmaceuticals. Members agreed this is a good idea and discussed some ideas about how to implement the idea. There was general consensus that the mechanism should be a web page, that there are too many things to cover so we should prioritize and cover the most important or most requested first, and that the EAC should have control over the content. The most obvious choice for hosting the website would be the Borough website. Lauren will talk to Jane Billings about this possibility. Melissa Tier volunteered the college as one source of information and connection with a student who has some knowledge of the subject. It was decided that this should be handled by a separate committee. Volunteers for the committee were Nancy English, Susan Kelly and the two guests Stephen Lehmann and Ashley Grider.

Little Crum Creek Park: The most recent workday in Little Crum Creek Park was held on a day that threatened rain so it was not well attended. Areas around young trees were weeded and mulched by the few intrepid volunteers. It looks like there is not enough interest to form a separate Friends of Little Crum Creek Park organization to take care of maintaining and improving the park so there was discussion about what is needed and what could be done.

- Removal of dead and dangerous trees – there is a Borough budget for this and it will be scheduled
- Removal of brush piles from wetlands – it was suggested that community service workers could be scheduled for a day to move the brush to the edge of the park where Public Works could pick it up
- Activities in the park – it was mentioned that a dance group wants to do a 45-minute dance program, someone is looking for a venue for free outdoor yoga classes, there is a music group that might be interested in putting on a free concert and the library wants to do a story walk in the park
- Electric outlet in the park – Lauren will ask Jane if this work has been scheduled

Ways of keeping up with routine park maintenance were discussed including the possibility of engaging with the horticulture program at Williamson school to use the park for learning and simultaneously the students with their knowledge of horticulture would supervise maintenance. Responsibility for park maintenance needs to pass from the EAC in the person of Susan Kelly to someone with equal expertise. There was a suggestion that a full time parks coordinator would be a good idea similar in some ways to the Swarthmore Town Center Coordinator position newly filled by Lora Pietrangelo. This position could be responsible for all the Borough parks. Tracy and Melissa will work on a draft job description for this possible position.

Comprehensive open space and recreation plan: The Natural Lands Trust is working on the draft plan, which will make recommendations for parks, recreation, and open space management in the four municipalities (i.e., Swarthmore, Rose Valley, Rutledge, and Nether Providence) and the draft plan will be presented to the public when it becomes available.

Report from Swarthmore College: Melissa Tier reported that

- Swarthmore College's Office of Sustainability and the Grounds crew are coordinating to support student & community volunteers in two campus vegetable plots this summer. Sheila Magee & Sandra Lopez will be

hosting supervised gardening sessions throughout the summer to instruct and support student volunteers in both the Good Food garden (on the corner of Elm & Cedar) and the Our Food garden (below Sharples, the dining hall). People who work in the vegetable gardens would be eligible to receive some of the produce. Melissa will send Susan the scheduling spreadsheet.

- The college will be starting a CSA pick-up location on campus for Red Earth farms.
- The college is looking into expanding their Kitchen Harvest kitchen waste pickup. Information about Kitchen Harvest could be included on the one-stop information source on waste and recycling noted above.
- The Zip Car idea has changed and the college is considering using Enterprise for its occasional car use instead of Zip Car.
- Swarthmore College students have attended the climate change conference and they would like to provide education to the community about climate change and the Conference of the Parties. The first step is a project to determine what type of education could be provided. They would like to do something in late September before the conference in November and then another in the spring of 2017 after the fall conference.

The meeting adjourned shortly after 9 pm.

Upcoming EAC meeting: May 24, 2016, 7:30 pm in the Community Room.