

Swarthmore Environmental Advisory Council
MEETING MINUTES
July 26, 2016

Present: Chair: Susan Kelly. Members: Tracy Bouvette, Nancy English, Doug Hasbrouck, Fintan McHugh. Members of Borough Council and of the Public Works, Parks, and Recreation Committee, Lauren McKinney and Ross Schmucki.

Minutes from the May and June meetings were approved as submitted.

Recycling and disposal committee update: The committee had its first organizational meeting. A formal name has not been agreed upon because we are looking into not only what and how to recycle items but also how to dispose of items safely and with as little risk to others or damage to the environment as possible, so we are looking into “what to do with stuff you no longer want.” We selected examples of things that people might want to know about getting rid of and organizations in the area that take previously owned items. Each member took one or two items in each category and is working on finding the information. We plan to use this test to come up with a general outline of the kind of information we would want on items and organizations that we will put in the list, the format for the information, and an estimate of the amount of time it could take to put the information together. Jane Billings has agreed that the information can go on the Borough website and that the Borough secretary can be given the responsibility of putting it on the website and then maintaining it. Still to be determined is how the information will be organized on the website to make it easy enough to find.

Growing Greener Planning Grant: Currently analysis of data is proceeding and the resulting preliminary plan for renovation of the open space around the swim club will be presented in a public forum. The EAC will be responsible for community outreach leading up to and organizing the public forum.

Open space bond: Although Delaware County is the only county in Pennsylvania without an open space bond fund, the Marple Green Space organization was successful in stopping development of 213 acres involving a stream. DelCo is now looking into a \$20 million open space bond fund that would have 25% for park maintenance (likely dedicated to county parks).

Swarthmore EAC Mission: The history, mission and future of the Swarthmore EAC were discussed. Members of The League (of Women Voters) initiated the creation of an EAC in Swarthmore, and eventually the EAC was established by ordinance 274 in 1998. Prior to establishment of the EAC, there had been a sewage spill in Little Crum Creek with the fine from that spill dedicated to the first stream-bank stabilization project in Little Crum Creek Park. The EAC is advisory to Borough Council, the Planning Commission, the Tree Committee, and other entities. Among the responsibilities of the EAC are:

- Review environmental aspects of building plans and make recommendations to Borough Council
- Recommend environmental programs to Borough Council
- Work with Public Works department and volunteers to maintain Swarthmore parks
- Apply for grants for various projects
- Participate in open space planning

The EAC will submit requests for funds with the current borough budget cycle, as needed to fulfill its mission, including justification for funds, benefits of the projects to things like water quality and storm water management, savings that the projects might achieve, and priorities for the various projects. Doug Hasbrouck will serve as the point person to collect ideas for funding needs for the upcoming budget, and at the August 23 meeting we will draft the list of projects in need of funds.

The meeting adjourned shortly after 9 pm.

Recording Secretary, Nancy English

Upcoming EAC meeting: August 23, 2016, 7:30 pm in the Community Room.