

## **Swarthmore Environmental Advisory Council**

### **January 24, 2017 Minutes**

Present: Susan Kelly, chair; members Tracy Bouvette, Doug Hasbrouck, Ashley Grider, Matt McCabe; associate members Phil Coleman, Jennifer Pfluger, Annie Fox, Melissa Tier; Borough Council liaison Lauren McKinney.

Absent: Jon Penders and Aurora Winslade.

Borough resident Barbara Stratton.

**Public Comment** – Resident Barbara Stratton spoke about her concern for pedestrians between Wallingford and Swarthmore, given that the pedestrian foot bridge over Dick’s Run (near the intersection of Yale Ave. and Avondale Rd.) has been closed. Pedestrians, including students walking to/from Strath Haven Middle and High Schools have to walk in the road and through a busy intersection. After discussion on the topic, it was suggested that the Borough Council member ask that the Public Safety committee of Council look into this issue. Barbara also commented that having trash cans at bus stops was a good idea, and thought that it would be nice to have a “Town Clean-Up Day” to police the center of town.

**Introduction of New Members** – EAC Chair welcomed Ashley Grider and Matt McCabe as new members of the EAC who will be filling the seats of Nancy English and Fintan McHugh, who have stepped down as members but will stay involved as associate members, as their time allows. The Chair thanked Nancy and Fintan for their dedication and commitment to the EAC for the past 3 years.

**Minutes** – The minutes of the meeting of November 22, 2016 were approved without changes (there was no meeting in December 2016). The matter of appointing a permanent secretary to take minutes was raised, but no volunteers were apparent. Tracey Bouvette suggested we continue the informal rotating structure, which was met with general agreement.

**EAC History/Background** – For the benefit of visitors to the meeting and new members, Susan Kelly talked about the history of the Advisory Council. She noted that we are only advisory to the Borough Council (our formal actions relate only to approving the minutes of our own meetings) and act as volunteer stewards of Little Crum Creek Park.

**Swarthmore College Sustainability Office** – Melissa Tier reported on current and upcoming activity at the College including the “Green Advisors,” the “President’s Sustainability Interns,” and a delegation of students attending the United Nations Climate Conference in Morocco. On February 2, an Activist Comedian will perform at the College; there will be a Sustainability Summit on April 24, and; a series of environmental movie screenings will be announced shortly.

Melissa is continuing to pursue the idea of a summer intern who can manage the three student vegetable gardens over the summer. If the position is approved, they might also do some education programs at Little Crum Creek Park in conjunction with the EAC and promote the idea of a compost service to Borough residents.

**A Few Steps** – Phil Coleman gave a quick history of the group, spoke about its mission, and mentioned they are looking for more volunteers.

**“It’s Not Trash”** – Ashley Grider reported that a fairly comprehensive list of items has been compiled and is currently being researched. There is concern about how to get the information up on the web in a timely and efficient manner.

**Grants**

1. CORPOS grant from DCNR. Discussion included the news that there is some interest at the County level for creating an open space fund.
2. Growing Greener Planning Grant: Tracy is meeting with Jane this week to discuss the status of this grant and will report back at our February 28<sup>th</sup> meeting.
3. Delco DCNR mini grant – our successful proposal for \$500 in funding to stabilize creek banks in Little Crum Creek was approved. The proposal indicated we would complete the project by April 1 (??). Tracey Bouvette suggested that the Chester Ridley Crum (CRC) Watershed Association might provide a matching grant to expand that effort.

**Little Crum Creek Park** – Doug Hasbrouck reported that he and Susan Kelly had met with Cuzzy Rowles, Swarthmore's Public Works supervisor. Topics/ideas touched on included:

- issues with tables and benches recently built as an Eagle Scout project
- installation of a portable bathroom for the warmer months
- installation of dog waste signs, bag dispensers, and trash cans
- replacement of the Gazebo roof
- removal of old, broken stone fireplaces/incinerator in the lower sections of the park
- obtaining a professional opinion about the condition of the large stone fireplace, and possibly adding charcoal grills for cooking

**Upcoming events** include the public library's installation of the storybook walk, where a children's book will display a page at a time throughout the park; CRC's Annual Streams Clean-up Day, will take place on Earth Day, on Saturday, April 22; and a professional dance troop will be performing on the afternoon of April 22.

**News from Borough Council Liaison** – Lauren reported that there is an EAC Network Conference in Lancaster PA on May 6 as part of the Land Conservation Conference. Lauren plans to attend and encouraged others to consider it. She also indicated that the Street Tree Committee and the EAC might look for ways to work together to further any common goals. Susan Kelly will contact the Street Tree Committee Chair to discuss possible areas and means of cooperation.

Lauren also raised the question of whether the EAC should have its own bylaws. Doug noted that since the Council was created by the authority of Borough Council, and is purely advisory to that group, we may fall under their purview (if existed independently the Commonwealth would require bylaws as part of our establishment). Doug agreed to conduct an informal survey of other EAC's to find out if they have their own bylaws.

Respectfully submitted,

D. Hasbrouck