

West Vincent Township
Environmental Advisory Council
Minutes- August 1, 2017

Attending: Don Cook,; Jim Deisinger,; Jane Helm; Vic Laubach; Pieter Ouwerkerk; Suzanne Roth; Harriet Stone.

Also attending: Erica Batdorf; Kur Bonak; Brian Curry; Jim Helm; Sara Shick.

The meeting was called to order at 5:31 P.M.

Approval of the minutes.

1st:Harriet Stone; 2nd: Jane Helm

All approved

Committee Reports:

Board of Supervisors (BOS) will have a full board for the August 7 meeting. They have received a few bids for the Fellowship Trail & Hollow Road Bridge. There is now a schedule for paving Horseshoe Trail.

Northern Federation – no meeting

Regional Planning is still talking about the comprehensive plan. The Eland Downs development has not complied with the Phoenixville Plan and proposes building 5-6 apartment buildings; total capacity 180 apartments. No retail space.

Sustainability Committee is working on their fall fair. They have suggested that the township owned farmland (100 acres total) be farmed organically.

Park and Recreation is having a community picnic on August 10 & movie on August 26.

Planning Commission reviewed a sketch for the Hankin daycare center to be in the library area; 130 students, 20 employees. Hankin has extra sewer capacity reserved for development. Toll updated mapping for general conservation of Sunderland Avenue is not back yet. Do not know if they took advice. BOS will make final decision.

Open Space - All monies being spent to purchase land at Bryn Coed from Natural Lands.

Ad hoc Zoning Ordinance Changes – Erica, Sara & Vic met with Rick Trailles of Natural Lands (NL) who tweaked some recommendations and is moving on to the SALDO. Focused on water quality and better definitions using common sense and plain language. Updating plant lists focusing on rain gardens and native plants.

Old Business (priorities/goals):

As the Forestry subcommittee, Jane, Sara, Vic & Erica met in mid July to gather definitions on significant specimen trees and what protections will be sought for these trees. A tree survey was done in the 1990's and could be updated with free software. Tree stewardship plaques are a thought to recognize the community's special trees (as in Audubon recognition of wildlife recognized properties). This should be a simple volunteer project.

Historic Resources Committee continues to work with Tom Wargo on the notification process for Historic Identification Designations (HID) and zoning/building permit issues. The committee assisted the Historic Yellow Springs town tour by manning the Vincent Baptist Church (VBC). They distributed 250 handouts. Karen Oncay is interested in doing

program focused on the VBC. More research needs to be done. Photographing the properties at Bryn Coed will be done by Kate Farnham with Barb Quinter and Sara recording. They are hoping to have two teams working to make the process more efficient. Kur Bonak has volunteered to digitize the atlas notebooks and it is going quickly.

Jim Helm commended the HRC for a job very well done on the town walk. It was clear that West Vincent's contribution shone above the rest. Karen, Barb, Tim and Isabel, with her 21 costumed orphans planting flags and stars at the children's memorial, was wonderful. There were photos taken. It would be nice to have them for the record.

New Business

Vic received estimates for landscaping the area around the pond. We can apply for grants to help us pay for this project; Schuylkill Highlands mini-grants, PECO's Green Region, Tree Vitalize. The original design plans were drawn by Open Space Greenway Management as a demonstration area for the township, a forest park for Weatherstone was included. Green Weaver's estimate is \$29,950 for the area around the pond, over to the parking lot and down the drive and \$15,000 for one berm and hedgerow.

Vic asked Ed Theurkauf how much he would charge us to help with our ordinance changes for forest protection and harvesting. He says we would be eligible for funding under the Vision Partnership Program that covers up to 70 % of the cost. Ed Theurkauf's fee would not exceed \$15,000. The township would be responsible for the balance. Application deadline is August 30.

The BOS would have to approve the 30% amount (\$4,400) for the 2018 budget. There must a pre-application meeting with the county before August 25. Vic will email Ed to see if the dates are doable & get back to Erica.

In addition, Green Valley's is working on Phase II of the William Penn Foundation Grant regarding forest protection. There may be matching funds available.

Erica stated that the township applied to do a total zoning ordinance update regarding water quality, trees, etc. The township is also going through a codification process (digitizing the ordinances) for ease of searching the database. This process is being done by General Code. It is a two-year process and will point out inconsistencies and other issues.

A motion was made by Harriet and seconded by Pieter to explore the possibility of meeting the time lines and, if yes, proceeding with the grant application. All approved

Do we want Ed T. to attend meetings on an hourly basis for more in depth conversations?
Think of wording for a motion for the next meeting.

Harriet mentioned that the Brunner/Resniak property looks poorly. Erica will contact Tom Wargo, who will contact Hankin.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:37.
1st: Jane Helm; 2nd: Harriet Stone