

West Vincent Township
Environmental Advisory Council
Minutes
June 6, 2018

Attending: Don Cook; Tommi Dulchinos; Jane Helm; Vic Laubach; Suzanne Roth; Ken Witek.

Also attending: Yvonne Brownlee; Bernie Couris; Brian Curry; Sara Shick; Harriet Stone.

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 P.M.

Suzanne stated that she had no minutes of the May meeting. Jane took rudimentary notes and will forward those to Suzanne. Suzanne read the second page of the April minutes since they had not been provided.

The minutes of April 4, 1018 were approved.

1st: Jane Helm; 2nd: Don Cook

All approved

Subdivisions/Land Development/Historic Building

Weatherstone- Why did we have the meeting with Sustainability? Both Jane and Tommi felt it was a waste of our time. However, Bernie felt it was the beginning of a process whereby the Board of Supervisors (BOS) needs to listen to and take into account the comments of the two commissions before making critical decisions. Jane feels we need to get ahead of the process of development (by changing ordinances?) because once decisions are made by the BOS we have no influence. The two commissions need to make developers understand why we ask for the things we do and sell these ideas to them on the basis of the benefits to both the developer and the community. Bernie wants developers to meet with the two commissions.

Landscaping at Weatherstone was discussed. Neal Fisher stated that as a result of the downturn in the real estate market of 2008, fewer trees are being grown by the nurseries nationwide. Vic stated that the Zoning Board should amend its ordinances to give a size range for trees to be planted with a mix that will work together in 20 years. Smaller is actually better for survival! It is more important to plant a mix of trees, particularly natives, than be concerned about the caliper size. Getting trees from local growers would be ideal.

Also, open space should be considered for these communities. Vic suggests an ordinance change to have the number of units proposed to equate to recreational areas for that community.

We need to ask Neal Fisher again about putting up a fence along the route 401 walking path as it intersects with route 100 for safety issues. Perhaps Hankin will rethink this idea.

Neal stated that the Zarizniak property will be improved.

Jane said that the sewer sale monies should be made available for Zoning Ordinance changes. Rick Trailes' work on this subject is in progress.

Zoning Hearing:

- Sixteen Years – table to the next meeting.
- Home business - car detailing. Zoning exceptions expire after a year. The Zoning Officer needs to check the products being used in the detailing process for Material Safety & Data Sheets (MSDS) to check for contaminants. We need a representative at the Zoning Hearing Board (ZHB) to make sure our recommendations are heard regarding products used near streams and wetlands. The ZHB should carefully examine the Zoning Officers findings. We will discuss further at our next meeting.

Old Business (priorities/goals):

- Benner Farm sign installation- Jane states it is not installed yet. She will speak with Erica Batdorf.
- Historic Commission Formation update- The BOS received our recommendations but has not moved forward. Jane will speak with Erica.
- HRC's listing of "Historic Properties of Concern" - Tracey Franey reports she is aware and staying on top of this list. The list is comprehensive and easy to read!
- WVT Festival in the Park- We will have a small table showing the Tree Recognition information and give away trees. The trees (100) will be in cups with the logo on it plus planting instructions. The Tree Recognition logo was created by the township's graphic artist. Jane has made a display board and picked up brochures for the Extension Agent. Jane has ordered 12 x 12 diamond shaped aluminum signs (life span 10 years) to be placed on a mailbox or fence, not the tree.

New Business:

We should have a link to the EAC on the township website

We will have an article in each newsletter sent to residents. Jane's two articles were excellent.

It was suggested that we (EAC & Parks and Recreation(P&R)) have a standard for mowing, mulching and pruning in the public parks. The mulch needs to be removed from volcanized trees and shrubs. No herbicides or pesticides should be used. We will look to

the PA extension service for information. A document will be prepared and discussed with Erica and P & R to be given to township employees regarding the issues.

Reports were made on Phoenixville Regional Planning meeting for August. See the Phoenixville borough website. Parks and Recreation is having a Festival in the Park. Open Space hopes to show a draft map of open space areas in the township at the Festival.

Town talks and walks schedule now available.

Next meeting to be announced.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 P.M.