

ALBANY TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

Kempton Fire Company Social Hall

2461 Route 143, Kempton, Pennsylvania

Tuesday January 2, 2024

7:30 - 8:45 pm

Attending: Bracken Brown Chair, Noah Rauch, Vice-Chair, Tom Kerr, Dale Derr, Randy Hensinger, Anita Zawada, Laurie Goodrich.

Secretary's Report: Dale Derr substituting for LG at last meeting, circulated the December Minutes. Minutes reviewed and approved unanimously.

New Officers: Officers for 2024 were proposed to remain same as 2023 and approved unanimously-- Bracken as Chair, Noah as Vice-Chair, Laurie as Secretary. Supervisors have to approve.

Current Activities:

Group discussed the activities for first six months of 2024. The following were agreed upon:

- 1) February 20th program on Farmland Raptors with live birds, Bracken and Hawk Mountain staff to present. It was discussed if boy scouts and girl scouts should be contacted. Use of Kempton Community Center vs Fire Company discussed and settled on Fire Company due to costs. Feb 27th will be back up date. (check with FC?) Tom will do flyer and cookies (😊), Randy can look into sign, all should circulate flyer when it is completed.
- 2) March 12th program on Pine Martin reintroduction and Fishers in Pennsylvania by PGC biologist Thomas Keller. Laurie is getting final details and will circulate. Announce at February meeting.
- 3) Stroud Water Resource Center talk on water quality and quantity in township (?) Noah to confirm talk and date. Possibly in May.
- 4) April 20th is roadside cleanup in township. Tom will get details to group.
- 5) June is display at the Kempton Fair and July/August are off.
- 6) Fall programs could include Lenape program. Need to contact person speaking at Hawk Mountain perhaps. (will we do another tour?)

Other Activities:

Bracken mentioned FEB 24th We Conserve PA is holding statewide EAC meeting which can be attended online. He encouraged EAC members to attend to learn about various topics. The

organizers are seeking short topics of 5 to 8 minutes for discussion or presentations. Bracken suggested we could bring up the challenge of warehouses and large scale solar for rural townships as discussion topic or the CAFOs. Some concern expressed about our lack of expertise. Bracken was going to explore idea with Supervisors.

Joint Meeting with Albany Parks Committee: Steve Hamm reported there is a new piece of land that might be transferred to the Park, wetland area. He also said they are examining where no mow area can be still. There is some discussion with Larry Lloyd to plant more trees. They also will spray for thistle again and remove some walnut and invasive shrubs. Bracken reported he has a list of the birds spotted on the Park property in 2023 he can share. The EAC also agreed to put together a few bird/plant walks for 2024 on the Park for residents. Dates need to be selected and added to calendar.

Social Media: Dale reported that Kutztown University communications department has a Design a Thon every year that the EAC might take advantage of and encourage display or brochure we might be able to use, or social media infographics. He is willing to attend with another person to pitch ideas. Noah said he can attend. Suggestions included Facebook graphics on Albany township or some of the educational flyers we have (native plants, lights out). Also suggested was a new display for the township and EAC focuses. Also suggested was to take our educational pamphlets and redo them with graphic design that can be template for future flyers. It also was suggested that the video content taken by Todd and Noah could be used for shorter videos the students put together that can be featured on social media, promoting natural aspects of township.

New Business

Dale relayed the recent Facebook post about debris building up on Trexler bridge in stream. He suggested a program on stormwater runoff could be interesting, flooding risks, laws in place, etc. He has contact at Berks Planning Commission.

Old Business

Tom reported the American Forest Foundation mailed 70 landowners about family forest carbon option in the township. Of those, eight people pursued an application and 2 contracts were sent out so far. Two properties were too small. Tom said it might be worth doing this again in the future.

Submitted by,

Laurie Goodrich

Albany Township EAC Secretary