

**EAC Minutes**  
**Tuesday, May 23, 2023 @ 7:00 PM**

- **Present**
  - **EAC:** Ms Garg, Mr. Kunz, Ms. Hilyard, Ms. Guererro, Mr. Meyers, Ms. Gensemer, Mr. Heisey, Mr. Cram, Mr. Aquilina
  - **Public:** Todd Pohlig
  - **BOS:** Martha Majewski
  - **Mgmt:** Laurie Getz
- **Approve April 2023 Summary**
  - there were no edits; minutes for April approved
- **Announcements**
  - See Facebook [Schuylkill Township EAC | Facebook](#)
    - Ms. Gensemer reports that she has posted about ticks.
    - Ms. Hilyard and Mr. Kunz will not be at the June meeting
- **Public Participation**
  - None
- **Reports/Updates for Ongoing Projects**
  - Bee City USA – **KH**
    - Ms. Hilyard has no updates
    - Mr. Cram suggests talking to local beekeepers about putting hives at Pickering Preserve.
    - Ms. Hilyard suggests Schuylkill resident Peter Bort who facilitated Bee City could be an alternate for EAC.
    - There is some discussion as to opportunities here.
  - Bird Town **KH**
    - Signs placed
    - Ms Hilyard says no updates but there is some discussion that there are more signs up.
    - There is some discussion as to posting and publicizing Bird Town
  - Clean-up projects - **EC**
    - Litter cameras discussion (**AG & EC**)
      - Ms Gensemer updates that the truck needed is not available but may not be needed.
      - There are no updates on clean up projects.
  - Clean Energy: **JM**
    - VPP Task Force / Clean Energy Future
      - Mr. Meyers notes that the grant was extended to October 30th but the VPP grant process is in it's final months.
      - The VPP Task force met May 11th and final deliverables were a major part of the conversation.
      - The two key documents are a Municipal Clean Energy Plan and a Community Clean Energy Plan.
      - There are also 10 one-pagers that serve as hand-outs for residents that provide overviews on specific clean energy topics including guidance for homes and businesses about energy efficiency and various "how to" topics.
      - But the two main documents- the Municipal Plan and the Community Plan are the ones that each township BOS is expected to "accept".
      - Right now there is a draft of each for East Pikeland which Mr. Meyers resorts he has read and provided to Danielle Jouenne.

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- The final draft of the Schuylkill Municipal Plan and Community Plan should be available on May 26th.
- Mr. Meyers can circulate the plans to the BOS immediately upon receiving; Ms. Majewski states that it should be provided to Ms. Getz.
- Mr. Meyers reports that plan acceptance schedules for other townships are:
  - o WVT is planning to present at a public workshop on June 5th and then is hoping it will be accepted by the BOS on June 19th.
  - o EPT may present their reports on June 6th
  - o WPT and Schuylkill don't have set dates yet
- Mr. Meyers reports that Mark T. Gallant who is Senior Community Planner with the Chester County Planning Commission sent an email today.
  - o there is extended discussion about the contents of the email as it relates to requirements and timing of acceptance by BOSs
- Schuylkill Township Energy Planning
  - Vehicle Procurement
    - o this will be discussed in BOS workshop in July
- o DCNR Lawn Conversion program - Review May 12th walk thru of Pickering Preserve and Twp Building
  - Ms. Hilyard reports about a walk-through with EAC members and Alyssa.
  - They talked about lawn conversion program near the dead pine trees.
  - This area could be 70% trees and 30% other.
  - The group also talked about possibly reforesting the area behind the township building.
  - There is the possibility of edibles including pawpaws and other fruit/nut producing trees.
  - Ms. Garg said there was a lot to look at in the Preserve and that there was great feedback from Alyssa on things like swallowwort
  - Mr. Cram reports that DCNR also helps repair riparian buffer but Ms. Getz states that the easement prevents altering this area in this manner.
  - There is some discussion about maintenance and how it would work and the role of DCNR.
- o Facebook **AG**
  - [Schuylkill Township EAC | Facebook](#)
- o Parks/Preserves
  - Pickering Preserve
    - Colonial Gardens Trees
      - o Ms. Garg summarizes the trees that were installed.
      - o There is some discussion about the need for deer protection, especially as it gets close to Fall
      - o Ms. Garg raises planting, health, watering and who will do what and whether bags should be purchased.
      - o Ms. Getz reports that Nick is watering them every other day. She further indicates that a maintenance plan should come from the EAC.
      - o Mr. Cram states that the Gator Bags would be a good idea.
      - o There is discussion about getting 12 bags and who would check on them.
      - o Ms. Guerrero will check on Valley Park
      - o Mr. Cram is going to AZ so Ms. Garg will keep an eye on Pickering.
      - o There is some additional discussion about sizes of bags.
      - o Mr. Meyers makes motion not to exceed \$500
      - o Mr. Cram seconds
      - o Motion passes

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- o (7:58pm) Mr. Cram returns to topic of Pickering and describes where swallowwort is including along the road. He inquires as to whether we could inquire with Dept of Ag about addressing it.
        - o Ms. Guerrero offers to top thistle near Aqua border
      - Mow plan updates – **EC/JM**
        - o Mr. Cram reports that Nick is following the mowing plan.
        - o There is some discussion of ants in the library books.
        - o Ms. Majewski recommend boric acid, sugar, and water.
    - Valley Park **KG**
      - Biocontrol Invasives:  
Mile-a-minute NJ (\$500/500 weevils)
        - o Ms. Guerrero reports that the standard way of controlling mile-a-minute is from a weevil that helps defoliate them.
        - o There is some discussion as to how much mile-a-minute is at Valley Park.
        - o Ms. Guerrero says they are specific to mile-a-minute and that they will over-winter.
        - o It is decided to wait and see how the existing weevils perform this year.
      - Colonial Gardens Trees
        - o Planting, health and watering
        - o (discussed earlier)
    - Redtail
      - Discuss/review priority list
      - Drone Survey- **CA**
        - o Mr. Aqualina reports that he went to Valley Park to try to catalog invasives but there were too many. So he was considering a multi-spectral drone to assess the plants using their spectral signature.
        - o Mr. Aqualina suggests it could be done for free.
        - o Ms. Majewski favors the idea as long as neighbors are alerted in advance.
        - o There is some discussion as to whether there are raptors in Valley Park and what the implications would be regarding the drone project.
  - o Tree Subcommittee **KG**
    - Proposal Arborist: \$1650 for 18 hours vine removal from specimen trees and others
    - Mr. Guerrero summarizes the need to remove vines.
    - Mr. Cram asks whether it is oriental bittersweet. Karen believes it is.
    - Ms. Majewski suggests that Greg from Red Tail was going to address the vines.
    - There is some extended discussion as to whether Red Tail can handle the vines and how that should be communicated to Red Tail.
    - There is more extended discussion as to how to work with Red Tail.
    - Ms. Getz suggests that an alternative should be found if there are problems with Red Tail.
    - It is decided that Greg will be invited back in June to finalize priorities before their contract renewal.
    - Ms. Guerrero will come up with a list of tasks to present to Red Tail.
  - o Treasurer's Report- **TH**
    - Mr. Heisey reports on the spend \$602.93 in March. He itemizes the expenses which include:

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- tree protection
- bird boxes
- Bee City
  
- **Developments**
  - o University of Valley Forge – **AG**
    - Ms. Getz suggests there might be a new buyer but there has been no official communication.
  - o Wawa
  - o Ms. Getz says conditional use hearing will be July 12th at 6pm.
  - o Reeves/Pohlig By-Right Development plan- **SK**
    - Review updated EAC BOS letter
    - Review Aqua letter
    - Review T&M memo
    - 8:43pm Mr. Kunz summarizes issues with the Environmental Impact Assessment including
      - a. wetlands
      - b. noteworthy trees
      - c. riparian buffers
      - d. HOA future role
      - e. storm water
    - Mr. Kunz also summarizes a letter from Aqua opposing the plan.
    - Ms. Garg makes motion to approve Mr. Kunz's memorandum. Mr. Heisey seconds and the motion is approved.
  
- **New/Other Business**
  - o Next meeting June 27, 7 PM

Estimated Meeting Adjournment: 9PM

Meeting is adjourned at 8:53pm.