

**EAC Minutes**  
**Tuesday, August 22, 2023 @ 7:00 PM**

- **Present:**
  - **EAC:** Ms Garg, Mr. Kunz, Ms. Hilyard, Ms. Guererro, Mr. Meyers, Ms. Gensemer, Mr. Heisey, Mr. Cram, Mr. Aquilina
  - **BOS:** Martha Majewski
  - **Public:** Paloma Vila
  
- **Approve July 2023 Summary**
- minutes approved 7:01
- **Announcements**
  - See Facebook [Schuylkill Township EAC | Facebook](#)
  
- **Review last month's action items**
  - Action items
  - There is discussion around how and when to weed the new trees.
  - Development plan
  - Tree giveaway plan
- **Reports/Updates for Ongoing Projects**
  - Bee City USA - KH
    - Ms. Hilyard reports no updates
    - She reached out to Peter Bort
  - Bird Town - KH
    - Ms. Hilyard reports that there are some efforts at multi-county coordination for an upcoming meeting.
  - Clean-up projects - EC
    - Mr. Cram mentions the Schuylkill River cleanup. There are about 100 tires and a bunch of trash. Litter Lifters needs help getting the trash to the dumpsters.
      - Ms. Majewski notes that she saw kayaks marking areas for the event.
    - Litter cameras discussion AG/EC
      - no updates
  - Clean Energy: JM
    - VPP Task Force / Clean Energy Future
      - Mr. Meyers announces that the BOS accepted the Municipal Plan and the Community Plan at their meeting on Wednesday August 9th.
      - Mr. Meyers states that the last meeting of the VPP Task Force took place the next day in person in West Vincent on Thursday August 10th.
        - In attendance were county officials Mark Gallant from Chester County Planning Commission and Rachael Griffith who is the Sustainability Director for Chester County as well as members from the 4 townships and from Practical Energy Solutions.
      - Mr. Meyers states that it will be up to the EAC to help implement the recommendations in the plans in Schuylkill Township.
      - Mr. Meyers inquires about how to keep the EAC in the loop on township building renovations.
    - Mr. Meyers states that Northern Chester County Clean Energy Future will be an organization to continue the multi-township communication and cooperation between townships on both their plans and other efforts. There will be a planning meeting this Thursday.
    - Mr. Meyers will continue to provide updates on Schuylkill township plan implementation and on NCC-EAC activities.

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- Mr Meyers announces the first Chester County Sustainability Summit which will be Tuesday September 26 7:30am to 1:30pm
  - focus on county's Climate Action Plan
  - but one break out session is about Converting Lawns to Meadows
- Mr. Meyers can send out link with the minutes and forward the email:  
<https://www.chescoplanning.org/AboutUs/SustainabilitySummit.cfm>
- o DCNR Lawn conversion program- **Everyone**
  - Discuss/review DCNR plans
  - Mr. Cram indicates that he hasn't had time to review this.
  - Ms. Garg notes that more funding will be available next year.
  - Ms. Majewski notes that the landscaping around the township building will change so installing trees around the property should wait, or be part of eventual renovation plan.
  - Mr. Cram would like to take a closer look. He notes that they are looking at the pine areas which would save money.
  - Ms. Hilyard will reach out and ask to focus more on Pickering
  - There is discussion as to the specific trees and plants.
  - There is further discussion about watering.
- o Parks/Preserves
  - Colonial Gardens
    - Ms. Guerrero reports that they will guarantee viability and not health. If trees are standing, we keep them but Ms. Guerrero says she got a guarantee. Davey Tree saw beetles but Colonial Gardens didn't see it and thought it was insignificant. They weren't concerned.
    - Request for up to \$50 for PlantClinic submission
      - o Ms. Guerrero explains what this request is for. It's to send a sample of a Beech Tree.
      - o 7:47pm EAC votes to approve the \$50 for PlantClinic submission
  - Pickering Preserve- **EC**
    - Bees Keepers Assoc – possible presentation in August
    - Mr. Cram doesn't have updates on Pickering.
    - Ms. Garg and Mr. Cram discuss weed whipping around trees and bird boxes
    - Mr. Cram notes the native plant sale
    - Mr. Cram still may be able to bring in the beekeeper in September
    - Mr. Cram notes that the beekeeper does the presentation for PA Dept of Ag.
  - Valley Park **KG**
    - Colonial Gardens tree update (discussed earlier)
    - Drone Survey- **CA**
      - o Mr. Aqualina may be able to do a drone survey this fall.
- o Single Trash Hauler - **KH**
  - Options/discussion
  - Ms. Hilyard indicates that she is still interested in this idea.
  - Ms. Majewski notes that she needs to put this out to bid and the lowest bidder may win.
  - There is extended discussion as to the viability of a single hauler program.
- o Treasurer's Report- **TH**
  - Mr. Heisey notes that there are no new expenses.
  - He summarizes the 2024 budget. (8:12pm)
- o Tree giveaway Fall 2023 -**KH**
  - [Availability / Pricing / Order - Octoraro Native Plant Nursery](#)
  - Tree Authority was another company mentioned.  
<http://www.treeauthority.net/home.html>

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- **Developments**
  - University of Valley Forge
    - Ms. Gensemer reports that she hasn't heard anything.
  - Reeves/Pohlig By-Right Development plan- SK
    - Preliminary plan deficits.
    - Mr. Kunz clarifies some objections he had previously regarding preliminary vs final plans.
    - Ms. Majewski expresses uncertainty as to whether a vote will happen in September.
    - Ms. Hilyard indicates that she attended the planning commission meeting and provides updates regarding traffic and entrances and roads/maintenance.
    - Ms. Hilyard provides additional description as to road construction and whether school buses would navigate them.
  - Wawa
    - Ms. Majewski notes that there is a hearing tomorrow at 6pm.
- **New/Other Business**
  - Tree giveaway -KH
    - [Availability / Pricing / Order - Octoraro Native Plant Nursery](#)
      - Ms. Hilyard reached out to them and they seem more structured and organized.
      - There is discussion about setting up an account with them.
    - Ms. Guerrero expresses that it would be easier to work with Brehmerwald Nursery.
      - Several EAC members expressed that they have used them.
      - Ms. Majewski indicated that Ms. Getz was uncomfortable with 100 trees and would rather reduce to 50.
      - Brehmerwald provided a lot of suggestions.
      - Ms. Hilyard suggests getting several of each species.
      - There is some discussion of providing supplies such as bags or protection.
      - There is additional discussion about the types of trees that should be offered
      - Ms. Majewski said next step is to get a quote and get a "not to exceed" amount
      - Vendor, trees and amounts have been picked; date is under discussion.
      - There is some discussion of other events taking place in the Fall.
      - October 21st with rain date October 22nd is decided
      - 5 species will be selected
      - Motion is made with not to exceed of \$2500
    - Tree Authority was another company mentioned.  
<http://www.treeauthority.net/home.html>
      - Ms. Hilyard did not contact this choice.
    -
  - Vacations/meeting attendance
  - Next meeting September 26<sup>th</sup>, 7 PM
    - Ms. Majewski notes that she won't be in attendance.
- **Public Participation**
  - 8:46pm Paloma Vila introduces herself and notes that she is interested in a number of topics and potential initiatives.
  - Ms. Vila describes the Tree Tenders program.
  - Ms. Vila talks about the tree ordinance and how her neighbor removed trees without abiding by the ordinance.

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- She raises the question about enforcement and how to handle situations where developers can't replace the trees that they have planted
- Ms. Vila mentions clean energy two programs
  - one is a climate action program; Ms. Vila notes that we completed plans recently
  - the other is a shared energy manager program

Meeting adjourned at 8:53pm.