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**PRESENT**

|                      |                            |                        |                   |
|----------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Casey LaLonde</b> | <i>Township Manager</i>    | <b>Henry Alexander</b> | <i>Vice Chair</i> |
| <b>Ashley Gagne</b>  | <i>Township Supervisor</i> | <b>Natalie Caruso</b>  | <i>Member</i>     |
| <b>John Hellmann</b> | <i>Township Supervisor</i> | <b>Susan Charkes</b>   | <i>Member</i>     |
|                      |                            | <b>Cynthia Sheikh</b>  | <i>Member</i>     |
|                      |                            | <b>Tinamarie Smith</b> | <i>Member</i>     |
|                      |                            | <b>Dorothy Verdon</b>  | <i>Secretary</i>  |
|                      |                            | <b>Melanie Vile</b>    | <i>Chair</i>      |

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The monthly meeting of the West Goshen Township (WGT) Sustainability Advisory Committee (SAC) convened virtually via GoToMeeting was called to order by Chair Melanie Vile (MV) at 6:07 p.m. on Tuesday, February 23, 2021. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**1. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

A motion was made by Dorothy Verdon (DV) and seconded by Tinamarie Smith (TS) to approve the January 26, 2021 meeting minutes. All were in favor and the motion carried.

**2. TREE CITY CERTIFICATION****A. Arbor Day Event**

1. The WGT Arbor Day event will take place on Friday, April 23 at 5:00. The site is at the historic beech tree located behind 700 Old Fern Hill Road and adjacent to Wiggins Shredding on private property behind a fence. We can park at Wiggins after hours.
2. The event will be publicized in WGT's March eNews. Content is due to Dandelions Digital on or before March 15. Susan Charkes (SC) will write the draft, which will contain the event announcement, information about the tree, and ask residents for information about historic trees on their properties. DV will finalize and send to Dandelions Digital. Casey LaLonde mentioned that the Daily Local will be contacted to do an article.
3. SC provided a draft "West Goshen Arbor Day Proclamation 2021" for the SAC's review. All approved it as written and it will be presented to the board of supervisors (BOS) at their next workshop on March 2. It will be read aloud at the Arbor Day event by a member of the BOS.
4. A committee member raised the prospect of asking Andrews Landscaping and others to donate seedlings, but no definitive action plan emerged.
5. Discussion around this event also extended to the health of the tree and SC volunteered to ask Goshen Tree Tenders to assess it.
6. Bill Webb, assistant director, Planning & Zoning, spoke with the beech tree property's owner and they are willing to subdivide and convey .75 to 1.0 acres to the township under a fee simple arrangement.

**B. Tree Ordinance**

SC presented the London Grove tree ordinance as resource for WGT. The SAC again discussed the formation of a tree board and its composition. SC will contact Parks & Rec to find out if one of their staff would be interested in serving on a tree board. Ashley Gagne (AG) suggested contacting the Arbor Day Foundation to ask if we already have the components in place. The discussion was then tabled until the next SAC meeting.

### 3. SOLAR ORDINANCE

Henry Alexander (HA) reported that he and TS had one meeting with Township Engineer Richard Craig, Bill Webb, and the Planning Committee and thought it was a good start. They may have another meeting before the next SAC meeting. Other municipalities are interested in seeing what we are doing. TS said HA did excellent job summarizing the existing ordinance and making it desirable for contractors to get on board. They would like the township solicitor present at the next meeting.

### 4. COMMUNITY GARDEN

AG contacted Parks & Rec to determine their interest in participating on an ad hoc committee to plan the community garden and did not receive a response. MV and TS volunteered to serve on the committee. CL has contacted county and state people about moving Barker Dog Park, a grant-funded facility and stated that such a move is a year out. AG suggested that while we wait for the dog park land to become available, we could find a spot for a temporary raised bed garden somewhere on an existing township property that has water and sunlight. Suggestions included Barker Park, the community park, a spot near the beech tree, and land by the sewer plant. Issue is finding a spot for temp raised bed. MV will visit Barker and weeping beech tree area and will report back. MV and AG to research cost of setting up a rain barrel for watering.

### 5. RIPARIAN BUFFER

Tree Tenders got approval from Parks & Rec to install live stakes in the stream banks to halt erosion. The stakes will grow into shrub size. The installation will be on March 6 or 7, weather dependent. Dorine McClune, parks supervisor, will be involved. SC said there will be a small sign marking the project, and that it might be a good educational/community engagement opportunity. TS said SC did great presentation to sewer authority. There is a lot going on at the entire park that will involve construction. CL said contractors for pump station will not be allowed anywhere near buffer, it will be fenced off. Maintenance crew does not have to mow all the way up to the edge of the stream.

### 6. SAC LOGO

MV presented the 23 conceptual logos that DV had designed. After discussing their various merits, TS made a motion to approve Logo #23, which DV had submitted just before the meeting. Natalie Caruso (NC) seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried. DV will forward the draft and associated files to Dandelions Digital to execute in Adobe Illustrator so that we have a vector file. CL confirmed that the company is under contract with WGT for such services and there would not be an additional charge. DV will research pricing for imprinting the logo on reusable grocery bags. CL to provide her with vendor suggestions.

### 7. PLASTIC BAG INITIATIVE

SC volunteered to reach out to the West Chester Green Team ([www.wcgreenteam.com](http://www.wcgreenteam.com)) and invite someone to attend our next meeting. DV mentioned surveying residents about plastic bag use. CL confirmed that we can do this via the eNews, which reaches about 6,000 residents. MV will draft the survey.

### 8. SAC INITIATIVES

The SAC revisited the discussion from last month about its documented initiatives and if we should be doing more. DV stated that we should focus on the current initiatives. HA agreed and opened the topic of climate initiatives. He reported that the West Chester Area Council of Governments climate initiative has a subsection, [Clean Energy Future](#), which deals with public issues of climate change. Representatives from seven municipalities around WC are moving right now on constructive approaches we can take. Six of the seven have been involved in the Cadmus climate study. DV asked what we can do to implement the Clean Energy Future. HA said a resolution was floated at township level but not moved on. AG expressed frustration about resolutions without action. SC agreed and stated that it is good to have long-term vision, but short-term victories must be accomplished.

**9. TOWNSHIP VEHICLES**

John Hellman asked about the status of the township vehicle report. HA brought him up to date. HA then asked about the status of the hybrid police cruiser. CL confirmed that they will be purchasing it this year.

**10. TREE COVER**

MV has a student interested in taking a tree inventory using the I-Tree software program. MV suggested that the student start with the parks. SC made a motion to proceed with the project. DV seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.

**11. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

**12. MOTION TO ADJOURN**

A motion was made by HA to adjourn at 8:10 p.m. It was seconded by SC and the motion carried.

**13. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the SAC is scheduled for Tuesday, March 23, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. All meetings will be virtual until further notice.

Respectfully resubmitted on March 3, 2021 by Dorothy J. Verdon, Secretary, SAC. Revised March 7, 2021.