

Sustainability Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

February 28, 2023

PRESENT

Ashley Gagne Township Supervisor

Tinamarie Smith Township Supervisor

Chris Bashore Township Manager

Henry Alexander Chair

Melanie Vile Vice Chair

Dorothy Verdon Secretary

Natalie Caruso Member

Susan Charkes Member

Scott DeLone Member

Barbara Rinehart Member

The monthly meeting of the West Goshen Township (WGT) Sustainability Advisory Committee (SAC) convened virtually via GoToMeeting and was called to order by Chair Henry Alexander (HA) at 6:03 p.m. on Tuesday, February 28, 2023.

1. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

A motion was made by Dorothy Verdon (DV) and seconded by Melanie Vile (MV) to approve the January 24, 2023, meeting minutes. All were in favor and the motion carried. HA stated that MV had made the agreed upon changes to the December minutes and these minutes have been finalized.

2. ONGOING BUSINESS

A. Trees

- 1. Weeping Beech Services.** Chris Bashore (CB) consulted with Kristen Camp, WGT solicitor, regarding the Bartlett proposal for the work on the weeping beech. She indicated that a proposal of that size would need to be competitively bid. To obtain and consider other bids would take more time than there is left in the current dormant period of the tree. Consequently the work would have to wait until the next dormant period, which will start in October or November of this year. However, there is one alternative that Susan Charkes (SC) and a couple of other people knowledgeable of trees suggested. The most pressing parts of the work on the beech are the soil care and fertilization and the pest management for the phytophthora canker, which could be completed for a combined total of \$4,178. This work would provide the support to counter disease, which is aggressively impacting the tree. The remainder of the work consists of pruning and supports of the tree and other foliage in the area.

DV asked where the money would come from. HA indicated that SC had told him that Longwood Gardens gave the 2.6 acres that contains the tree in 1992 with the proviso that the township take care of the tree. The township sold the land to what is now the storage facility on Fern Hill Road in 1992 for \$234,601. The township has a fiduciary responsibility for the upkeep of the tree.

Chris Bashore (CB) indicated that the amount of money to conduct the recommended work would not require competitive bidding. Barb Rinehart (BR) moved and DV seconded a motion to recommend to the BoS the expenditure of \$4,178 to fund the soil treatment and pest management of the beech. CB suggested that Bartlett submit a new proposal that contains only the two tasks within the existing proposal that we would be recommending.

The motion to recommend to the BoS that they authorize Bartlett to conduct the soil care and fertilization and the pest management for the phytophthora canker was passed unanimously.

2. West Goshen Township Tree Cover

MV will present the tree coverage report to the Parks and Recreation on March 15, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. CB requested that she provide the information to Ken Lehr for inclusion in the information packet by March 8. It would also be placed into the BoS packet for their March 21 meeting. CB will put the tree cover study on the agenda for Parks and Recreation and the BoS.

3. **2023 Tree Plan.** Discussion of the 2023 tree plan was not conducted because SC, who was to present this agenda item arrived later due to an appointment.

B. Arbor Day 2023 Celebration and Project: Hamlet Crest Park Reforestation and Naturalization

BR reported on the Hamlet Crest project indicating that preparations for the Arbor Day event are going well. She has finalized the letter to go to the residents adjacent to the park. The committee discussed who to include when sending the letter and decided on approximately 20 addresses to which to send the letter. MV is completing a flyer, which will be referenced with a hyperlink in the newsletter article on Arbor Day. BR listed the tasks which each of the SAC members are working on. A sum of \$850 was allocated from the SAC funds, consisting of \$800 for the purchase of wood chips and \$50 for the purchase of name tags. HA stated that he had visited the Mulch Connection, the company that is to supply the chips, and everything appears to be in order. The SAC thanked BR for her hard work on this project.

- C. Barker Park Larvicide Treatment.** AG reported that she had further conversations with Andy from the Chester County Health Department regarding the mosquito problem at Barker Park. Andy had visited the site and found that a neglected swimming pool adjacent to the park could well have been the source of the mosquitos. He said that he contacted the owner of the property and obtained permission to treat the pool. Also, he identified a sewer vent with holes in it that could allow access to mosquitos. AG plans to meet with Andy and the facilities group to see how these holes could be plugged or what other options are available. BR said that we could install mosquito traps in the park and suggested that, if mosquito traps are successful at Barker Park, we could have a class showing how these traps work.

- D. Spring 2023 Energy Expo.** MV reviewed the plans for the Sustainability Expo, which is being sponsored jointly by East and West Goshen Townships and will be held in the East Goshen Community Park on April 15 from 1:00 to 5:00pm, with a rain date of April 16. MV requested the allocation of \$500 for miscellaneous expenses. It would match the \$500 allocated to the project by East Goshen Township. The SAC approved the amount.

- E. Newsletter.** DV asked about information on the Sustainability Expo to be included in the March newsletter. MV said that she would be writing an article on the Expo and will provide that to DV. DV indicated that there are now three items to go into the newsletter from the SAC.

- F. Incorporating EV Charging Units into SALDO.** HA said that he had talked with CB regarding how the township might proceed in adopting requirements for EV charging units in new construction and other improvements. He will continue to look into it.

- G. Preparation for Revisions of SALDO and Zoning Ordinances.** It was the consensus of the SAC that consideration of any revisions will have to wait until a subsequent meeting. CB will check back with Mike Dunn, who made a presentation to the SAC at the January meeting, to request previous work by his company.

- H. Municipal Complex EV Charging Design Contract and Structural contract.** CB provided information on two proposals from Carroll Engineering. The first was for design and construction bidding services for the buildout of the municipal complex with EV charging infrastructure. This was approved by the BoS. The second for a structural analysis of one of the municipal buildings to determine if solar panels could be installed on it. Action on this proposal was tabled pending further information.

3. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Home Grown National Park Concept:** BR described the program and the SAC considered various ways of publicizing the concept and providing education on it to the residents of the township.

B. Virtual or In-person Meetings. The SAC considered the option of meeting in person rather than remotely by GoToMeeting. CB stated that a change to the location of the meeting would require advertising. The meeting dates for all of the committees and boards are advertised at the beginning of the year to minimize the cost of public advertisements. Accordingly, the location of the SAC meetings (GoToMeeting) is set for the rest of the year and it would be a significant expense to change the location. The SAC decided to continue to meet remotely this year and reconsider where to meet starting next year. The members felt that gathering out of meeting, say at Arbor Day and sometime in the fall, would be a good chance to see each other in person.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment. SC stated that she had found out through Representative Pielli's newsletter that portions of Route 322 were being improved and that among these improvements were improvements to pedestrian access. However, she was informed that none of these improvements were in West Goshen Township. She recommended that we make this an agenda item and find out how we could get future pedestrian improvements in Route 322 in the township.

5. MOTION TO ADJOURN

A motion was made by DV and seconded by BR to adjourn. All were in favor and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

6. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the SAC is scheduled for Tuesday, March 28, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. This meeting will be virtual.

Respectfully submitted on March 14, 2023, by Henry Alexander, Chair, SAC.