

MALVERN BOROUGH
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

September 28, 2023
7:00 pm

EAC MEMBERS PRESENT:

Zoë Warner, Ph.D. Chair
Helise Bichefsky-Reilly, DO Vice-Chair
Brendan Phillips
Joanne Zhou
Cecelia Oswald, Ed.D.

ABSENT:

Tiffany Brouillet
Christine Hafer, Secretary
Eric Beauregard, Alternate

Call to order

Zoë Warner called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Helise Bichefsky-Reilly, DO, seconded by Cecelia Oswald, and carried a vote of 4-0 to approve the minutes from the August 24, 2023 meeting. Brendan Phillips abstained due to being absent from the August 24, 2023 meeting.

Unfinished Business

1. Bird Town

Zoe Warner discussed the committee formation and member recruiting. Administration will send out a Constant Contact next week to ask for volunteers for the Bird Town Committee to be Associate members of the EAC. Cheryl Tomlinson has already expressed interest in joining.

The Bird Walk and Talk will be on Saturday, September 30, 2023, at 8am. It was suggested to update the website and send out a reminder Constant Contact to advise everyone to meet at the flagpole.

A motion was made by Cecelia Oswald, seconded by Brendan Phillips, and carried by a vote of 5-0, to utilize \$450.00 of the EAC budget to purchase 6 bird boxes from the Willistown Conservation Trust for the Bird Town initiative.

2. Malvern Retreat House

Malvern Retreat House will be having a tree planting on their property that will be led by CRC Watersheds on November 3, 2023. Members of the EAC are welcome to attend.

3. Ordinance updates/proposals

Cecelia Oswald presented a proposal for the “No Mow May” resolution for the EAC members to review.

The EAC discussed having a Google form for residents to register and take part in the No Mow May initiative. They also discussed looking further into the Single Use Plastic Ordinance. This will start with plastic bags and will have the bag fee be set at a maximum of 15 cents per bag. This is what most municipalities are doing.

A motion was made by Brendan Phillips, seconded by Cecelia Oswald, and carried by a vote of 5-0, to submit the proposed resolution to Council for consideration at an upcoming meeting.

4. Mayors Monarch Pledge

Malvern Borough was chosen as a Garden for Wildlife plant donation recipient. We will receive 64 plants and the EAC discussed the best time for delivery of plants. Helise Bichefsky-Reilly will have them delivered the end of April for planting.

Zoe Warner advised that it is best to not remove plant material during the winter because they provide habitat and cover for birds and pollinators. Borough Administration will let Public Works know.

5. MBPA Sustainability Initiative

Helise Bichefsky-Reilly has communicating with members via email and will be attending their next meeting, TBD.

6. Dark Skies Initiative

The Parks & Rec movie night date is set for October 20, 2023. The EAC wants to educate the public about the Dark Skies initiative by showing the short film *Losing the Dark* before the main feature. The license has been purchased and it will be shown before the movie that evening.

7. Environmental hacks/Conservation Awards

The EAC discussed having members of the community share their sustainability practices on our social media accounts. The EAC tabled the Conservation Awards for now to see how we do with getting the social media interactions.

8. EAC web page and social media posts

EAC members will start working together to add more content to social media and the website. The environmental hacks post will be put together by Helise Bichefsky-Reilly, incorporating Zoe Warner's suggestions and posted when complete.

9. EAC Budget and project proposals through end of 2023.

The EAC discussed between the Blue Bird Boxes and the fall planting, they have stayed within this year's budget. Zoe Warner will be looking to request \$1000.00 for year 2024 as well.

New Business

1. Seed Giveaway

The EAC discussed giving seeds away at Parks & Rec's Cabin Fever event. Zinnia seeds can be put in bags and left as is until they get planted.

Upcoming Events

1. Bird Walk – September 30 at 8:00 am
2. Solar Tour – October 6-8 Mark King will have his house on map for Saturday 10a-4p and Sunday 11a-4p. Website will be updated.
3. Movie Night- Dark Skies- October 20, 2023
4. Malvern Retreat House Tree Planting- November 3, 2023
5. Invasive removal event in Borough parks – February 24, 2024–Rain Date March 2, 2024

Public Comment

Mark King commented on the times of the Solar Tour and one other family in the Borough is now participating. They live off Old Lincoln Hwy, and they are listed on the Solar Tour website.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Brendan Phillips, seconded by Cecelia Oswald, and carried by a vote of 5-0, to adjourn the meeting at 8:39 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Corinne Badman