

Environmental Advisory Committee Annual Report for 2020

Membership February 2021

Helise Bichesky-Reilly, DO Chairperson

Brian Walker, Vice-Chairperson

John Butow, Secretary

Brendan Phillips

Zoe Warner, PhD

Tiffany Brouillet

1 vacancy (applicant pending council approval)

Member Changes 2020

John Miesel resigned from the committee.

Mike Skuja moved out of the borough and therefore resigned from the committee

Tiffany Brouillet was welcomed as a new member later in 2020

The **Sustainability Advisory Ad Hoc committee** (2019-2020) consisted of: Helise Bichesky-Reilly, Marty Laney, Mike Skuja, Brendan Phillips, John Meisel, Joe Bones, Brian Walker, John Butow, Zoe Warner

The EAC (Environmental Advisory Committee) serves as an advisory board to Borough Council. It was formed in early 2020 after a Sustainability Advisory Ad Hoc Committee was formed to determine a need for such a committee. The Borough Council adopted ordinance No. 2019-10, which established the EAC for the Borough of Malvern. The initial meeting of the EAC occurred on 02-27-2021. The terms of each member are staggered to 2-3-4 year terms. Meetings are held on the 4th Thursday of each month.

EAC Goals and Responsibilities:

1-Advising the Malvern Borough Council, commissions, boards, committees, and other Borough agencies on, and promoting education about, issues related to the management, promotion, use, protection, and conservation of Malvern's natural resources.

2-Working to maintain and develop the natural resources in the Borough in a way that will attract and retain residents, visitors and businesses without compromising ecological integrity.

3-Identify environmental problems and recommending plans to the Borough Council.

4-Providing technical expertise on environmental aspects of subdivisions and land developments and providing environmental advise on specific projects upon request of the Borough Council or the Planning Commission.

5-Recommendng plans and programs for the promotion and conservation of the natural resources of the Borough.

2020 EAC Community Events

Due to the global pandemic (COVID-19) – events and meetings have been virtual following PA state suggestions / regulations

>Comprehensive Task Force – Malvern Borough 2020

Zoe Warner was appointed to represent the EAC on the task force. In addition, Helise Bichesky-Reilly (via the Parks and Rec committee) and Brian Walker (via Citizen Volunteer) will be on the Task Force. The EAC will assist with such topics as natural resource protection and energy efficiency.

>Storm Water Education program

As the COVID 19 restrictions ease, we plan to have a Storm Water program to educate the adults and children of the borough. This potentially will be done in alliance with the CRC. The program will be aligned with the Randolph Woods redevelopment.

>ReLearn Recycling

We took on the challenge to re-educate, remind and empower Malvern boroughites the basics of recycling- kind of Recycling 101. FAQs were offered on a weekly basis on a variety of recycling issues. The program was well received, though we only had a few viewers due to the early stage of our social media presence.

>Meetings with other local EAC chairs and members

We have had multiple 1:1 discussions and guest speakers from the other community EAC's to guide us on ideas and programs. Members of this EAC will be attending the **Northern Chester County EAC Conference** in mid-February to bring the multiple townships together to discuss objectives, goals and ideas.

> Penn Environment - PA State Environmental Regulations

The PA Single-Use Plastic Preemption was signed by Gov Wolfe that included an extension to July 1, 2021 or 6 months after the end of the COVID19 Emergency Declaration. In addition, the PA Senate's Local Government Committee is reviewing a proposed bill (SB 1159) that would preempt municipalities from enacting any ordinance pertaining to restrictions on single-use plastics until Dec 31, 2021 or 12 months after the COVID19 Emergency Declaration. The EAC recommended that Borough Council send a letter to the state representative in opposition to this proposal.

>Webpage, Facebook

As of early summer, we have a social media presence. We have been partnering with Parks and Rec to help gain exposure on our social media pages.

>Environmental Diet

We proposed, through social media, that the borough residents take a challenge to do certain tasks that would be environmentally more sustainable. Unfortunately, this program got very little involvement. Possibly since we did not have much of a social media following at the time. We will reevaluate this project in the future.

>Recycle Reuse Reduce

We published how 1 family in the borough has been able to reduce their trash to just 4x a year with significant increased recycling, reuse, reduction, and composting.

>10 Days to a More Sustainable Lifestyle

This program was a daily post of ideas that lead to a more sustainable lifestyle from an individual aspect to a more community/global orientation of sustainability. The program went over well with a significant increase in the number of views on our FB page.

>12 Ideas for a Green Holiday

We published a “green initiative” daily for 12 days to keep the holidays environmentally friendly. We received an exceptionally good response to this program. Green Ways to Give

>Master Watershed Steward- Penn State

Zoe Warner, PhD will participate in this rigorous Penn State program to become a Master Watershed Steward. The EAC will implement educational programs on watershed issues that will benefit our neighbors and more specifically will make recommendations for the Randolph Woods and the Comprehensive Plan committees.

>Future Ideas / events pending:

Care for our Natural Resources Program (environmental impact from bikes, dogs, water, etc)

Litter Lifters

Storm Water Education “Storm Water Detective”

Personal Environmental Footprint

Greenway Stewardship Plan

Heritage Tree Program

Tree Sapling Give Away

Spotted Lantern Fly

Road/Park Sponsorship

Food Waste Collection Program – Borough wide composting program

Low InfraStructure Composting

In summary- our initial year was a year of organizing and planning. COVID-19 health precautions and restrictions prevented any in person events. Our social media presence was zero. Our goal, therefore, was to build our presence through a new Facebook page, a new site

on the borough website and alignment with Parks & Rec social media spaces to provide a variety of projects and resources for our neighbors in the borough. On a broader and more global aspect, the EAC has been discussing different issues surrounding the Planning Commission, Comp Task Force, Parks and Rec & the Historic Committee. The EAC objective is to work with families and the municipal government to make a commitment to a healthier and more sustainable lifestyle in Malvern Borough.

Respectively Submitted,
Helise Bichesky-Reilly, DO