

MALVERN BOROUGH
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
Zoom Conference
Malvern, PA 19355

May 27, 2021
7:00 P.M.

1. CALL TO ORDER

EAC MEMBERS PRESENT:

Helise Bichfsky, D.O., Chair
Zoë Warner, Ph.D., Secretary
Tiffany Brouillet
John Butow
Daniel Kunze
Brendan Phillips

ABSENT:

Brian Walker, Vice-Chair

Staff & Professionals Present:

Christopher Bashore, Borough Manager
Alicia Marziani, Administrative Assistant & Parks and Recreation Coordinator
Dan Daley, Borough Engineer

2. MINUTES – no minutes were submitted for the meetings held in March and April.

3. NEW BUSINESS

a. Zoë Warner was appointed secretary.

b. Stormwater Management and waterflow in the Borough

Borough Engineer Dan Daley provided an explanation of the current Stormwater Ordinance, which is based on the model ordinance adopted by Chester County. When an application is submitted for new land development or construction on an existing building that will add more than 400 square feet, stormwater control is required. The goal of ordinance is to ensure that development activity will not increase the rate of flow when water leaves the property.

The ordinance states, “only the area of the proposed regulated activity shall be subject to the peak flow rate control standards of this chapter. Undisturbed areas for which the discharge point has not changed are not subject to the peak flow rate control standards.” Therefore, with the new land development, post peak flow would be expected to be equal to pre-development peak flow rates. The ordinance does not specifically address where stormwater drains (i.e., Crum Creek Watershed or Valley Creek Watershed), but it states “postconstruction stormwater shall be discharged within the drainage area of the same stream or water body receiving the runoff prior to construction of the proposed regulated activity.”

c. MS4 Pollution Reduction Plan

Borough Engineer Dan Daley described the current MS4 plan. Within five years the Borough must reduce the sediment load running into local creeks. The reductions have been divided between the Crum Creek and Valley Creek Watersheds.

d. Review of Chapter 173 Ordinance - Solid Waste

Brian Walker had discussed the possibility of making recommendations to the Solid Waste ordinance to improve environmental outcomes. Because Brian was not in attendance, the issue was tabled until the next meeting.

e. SALDO Street Trees Amendment – Acceptable Plant Materials

Zoë Warner described the Planning Commission’s recommendation to pass Street Tree Ordinance Amendments, which the Shade Tree Commission has been working on for five years. Included in the ordinance is an “acceptable plant materials” list. Currently, the list includes non-native species. The Planning Commission gave Zoë leave to coordinate with the EAC and the Shade Tree Commission to develop a list that focuses on the use of native species. Zoë explained native species are likely to have a higher survival rate and be more resilient, and if the goal is to provide a community benefit through planting street trees, native species could be more beneficial long-term.

There was discussion among EAC members regarding a possible change to the ordinance in which the ordinance would require developers and land owners to choose native plant species unless conditions prevented this. The party responsible would need to demonstrate why it would not be possible to use native species. In cases where native species would not be appropriate, the party could choose from a list of approved non-native species. The goal would be to use native species whenever possible to extend native habitat throughout the Borough.

The EAC agreed to coordinate with the Shade Tree Commission. Zoë offered to attend the STC meeting on June 21, 2021. Additionally, a member of the STC will be invited to attend the next EAC meeting on June 24, 2021.

4. OLD BUSINESS

a. Quann Park Rain Garden

A rain garden will be constructed at Quann Park along First Avenue between the softball field and the stone drive. The rain garden will be constructed to mitigate stormwater runoff and improve water quality in Crum Creek Watershed. Stormwater runs down First Avenue picking up pollutants and eventually runs down to the pump station, which is located at the headwaters of Crum Creek. The rain garden will contain the first flush of rainwater moving down First Avenue. Stormwater that cannot be contained in the garden will flow to the inlet on First Avenue. This will reduce the peak rate of flow and the volume of stormwater going into the creek. The goal of the rain garden is to promote infiltration of stormwater rather than runoff and to filter pollutants before they enter the creek. The rain garden will be planted with and Ernst seed mixture and will be mowed once a year.

The EAC will be responsible for designing educational signage that will be placed at the sidewalk near the rain garden. A three-person subcommittee will be formed to design the signage. Members will be chosen at the next meeting.

b. MS4 Pollution Reduction Plan

Dan Kunze was looking into how the Crum Creek and Valley Creek Watersheds would be affected by the MS4 plan. All issues were addressed in the discussion with the Borough Engineer.

c. Mission / Vision Statement

There was no discussion of this issue at this meeting.

d. Committee/ Board updates

1. Borough Council – nothing to report
2. Comprehensive Plan Task Force – nothing to report
3. Planning Commission – The Planning Commission reviewed the Street Tree Ordinance and recommended adoption of the ordinance. A number of commissioners were in favor of limiting the tree list to native trees but felt the EAC would be a better forum to make the recommendation.
4. Parks and Recreation – nothing to report
5. Master Watershed Program – nothing to report

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mark King has had his composter in place for a few weeks. He will report back to the EAC on his progress.

6. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Brendan Phillips and seconded by Helise Bichefsky and carried by a vote of 6-0, to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Zoë Warner