

MALVERN BOROUGH
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
Zoom Conference
Malvern, PA 19355

August 26, 2021
7:00 P.M.

EAC MEMBERS PRESENT:

Helise Bichefsky, D.O., Chair
Brian Walker, Vice-Chair
Zoë Warner, Ph.D., Secretary
Tiffany Brouillet
Daniel Kunze
Brendan Phillips

Staff & Professionals Present:

Tiffany Loomis, Assistant Borough Manager
Alicia Marziani, Administrative Assistant & Parks and Recreation Coordinator

1. CALL TO ORDER

Helise Bichefsky called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

2. MINUTES

A motion was made by Tiffany Brouillet, seconded by Helise, and carried by a vote of 4-0 to approve the minutes from June 24, 2021. Brendan Phillips abstained from the vote because he was not present at the meeting.

3. New Business

a. Initiatives presented by the Comprehensive Plan Task Force

Helise described the major findings of the Climate Change Report presented at the last Comprehensive Plan Task Force meeting.

Brian Walker talked about the implications for stormwater management based on predicted precipitation. He asked if we have the infrastructure capacity to handle increase stormwater runoff.

Brendan said we all know temperatures are getting hotter and our area is predicted to have more precipitation. It is our responsibility on this committee to determine what we can do about it at policy level. Brendan said we currently know there are pockets where there are stormwater problems throughout the Borough. He gave the example of Old Lincoln Highway, which has to be repaved every few years because the underlying material is being washed away. Brian said there are also stormwater problems near the Boy Scout house on Sugartown Road and along Warren Avenue.

With regard to our current stormwater ordinance, Zoë Warner suggested that we look at other municipalities' stormwater ordinances and compare them to Malvern's. These comparisons could provide examples for strengthening Malvern's ordinances related to stormwater reduction and management.

Dan said changing ordinances is difficult, and before we attempt this, we need to understand the problem by asking and answering some fundamental questions. Dan asked what individuals can do on their own properties to mitigate stormwater problems. He suggested the EAC provide education to residents.

Members discussed the possibility of doing a rain garden demonstration. Zoë suggested the EAC create an event around the rain garden construction at Quann Park to provide for on-site education. Another suggested location was Randolph Woods. The committee decided these areas might be too large for an initial demonstration, and it would be better to focus on a smaller demonstration area.

Dan suggested we get some outside assistance. He will look into local landscape companies that could demonstrate rain gardens for the public. Helise suggested we also look into creating a small-scale demonstration box to show the value of the rain garden. Zoë will see if the Penn State Extension has a demonstration model that could be used for a future event.

Dan also asked if the flow water has been mapped in the Borough. He wanted to know if areas that consistently flood have been mapped in the Borough. Once those areas have been mapped, we can explore the possibilities for remediation of areas that are consistently problematic. Dan will also look for recent data collected by planning agencies and watershed associations that show the changing patterns of precipitation. The ultimate goal is to map the water flow and to know where the problem areas are, so we can work towards slowing the flow of water and allowing it to infiltrate over time rather than having it run directly into stormwater drains. This will help to reduce rapid discharge into stream beds, which disrupts aquatic life and leads to warmer water temperatures over time.

Helise said she will compile questions related to water flow in the Borough, so they can be submitted to Borough Engineer.

Moving forward the immediate goal will be to hold the rain garden event. The long-term goal is to ask answer questions about current stormwater problem areas and to map the flow of water throughout the Borough.

Old Business

1. Borough Broadcaster Article

The EAC will be responsible for article for the Borough Broadcaster, which will be due in mid-October. The article will relate to seasonal property maintenance and will cover three topics: what to do with leaves and lawn debris (Brian), winterizing your garden (Zoë), more sustainable practices for clearing sidewalks/driveways after a snow storm (Brendan). Each member will provide a draft for his/her section by the beginning of October. Brian will compile the sections for the Broadcaster.

2. Rain garden – Quann Park – Next Steps

The rain garden project is scheduled for construction, but no start date has been given. When the project is completed, the EAC will provide educational signage for the site.

3. Community Composting

The Borough Solicitor said we would need to do a side agreement with A.J. Blosenski to allow for curbside pickup of compost since the current waste disposal contract specifies the collection of the items that would be composted. The Borough currently pays the tipping fees for trash disposal. Having curbside composting would reduce the amount of waste collection, so the Borough would save money on tipping charges. Leaves and Christmas trees would need to be excluded from the contract because those items were included in the bid for the contract. If we want to include those items for composting in the future, we would need to exclude them from the contract bid specifications when the contract is next up for bid. We would need to make these changes by March 30, 2022.

4. Committee Vacancy

There have been no applications to date.

5. Committee reports

- a. Borough council – nothing to report
- b. Comprehensive Plan Task Force – items covered in meeting’s earlier discussion
- c. Planning Commission – nothing to report
- d. Parks and Rec – Borough movie night will feature *Fern Gully*, a film with an environmental message that relates to the EAC’s education mission
- e. Master Watershed Program – nothing to report

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Brendan and seconded by Helise and carried by a vote of 5-0, to adjourn the meeting at 8:23 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Zoë Warner