

MEMORANDUM

TO: Borough Council
Mayor Uzman

FROM: Zoë Warner, EAC Chair

DATE: April 2, 2024

RE: 2023 Report for the Environmental Advisory Council

This report provides a summary of the activity of the Environmental Advisory Council during the 2023 calendar year. Members of the EAC during 2023 included:

- Zoë Warner, Ph.D., Vice-Chairwoman
- Helise Bichefsky-Reilly, D.O., Vice Chair
- Cecelia Oswald, Ed.D., Secretary
- Eric Beauregard
- Tiffany Brouillet
- Joanne Zhou
- Christine Hafer, Alternate Member

Changes to the committee included the following:

- Resignation: Brendan Phillips
- Appointments: Eric Beauregard (EAC member), Christine Hafer (alternate member)
- One open position

The EAC supported several initiatives in 2023 and worked in partnership with other Malvern committees and environmental organizations. A brief description of 2023's major initiatives follows.

Community Composting Pilot Program

Member Tiffany Brouillet led the community composting pilot program. Tiffany worked with Assistant Manager Corinne Badman and Colleen Falicki of Back to Earth Compost to establish curbside composting for 50 households in Malvern. The first 50 households to apply were chosen for participation. The program was launched in March 2023 at a cost of \$9,900 and was paid for through American Rescue Plan Act funding. The program was a success, diverting 18,356 pounds of food waste from Malvern's waste stream. The program will continue in a

modified format in 2024.

Bird Town PA

After receiving approval from the Malvern Borough Council, the EAC submitted an application to become a Bird Town in April 2023. The application was accepted on May 3, 2023, and Heidi Shiver, president of Bird Town, presented a commemorative plaque and two road signs to the MBC on June 20, 2023 to mark Malvern's inclusion in the program. The EAC completed several Bird Town-related activities, including: extending bird habitat through native plantings, formalizing annual meadow mowing, holding a bird walk at the Paoli Memorial grounds, and distributing "make your own" bird feeder kits at Christmas on King. An EAC Bird Town subcommittee has now been appointed that will be primarily responsible for carrying out Bird Town initiatives.

No Mow May Resolution

Cecelia Oswald drafted a "No Mow May" resolution, which was adopted by the MBC in December 2023. The resolution suspends the ordinance that requires yard weeds and grasses to be maintained less than 10 inches high (§153 Section 302.4) for the month of May, allowing homeowners to voluntarily leave all or portions of their lawns unmowed or to reduce the number of times they mow during the month of May. The goal of the resolution is to provide floral resources during the early spring when these resources are limited. Cecelia wrote an article for the Winter 2024 Borough Broadcaster describing the initiative. Signs will be provided for participating households to indicate their participation in the program.

Mayors Monarch Pledge

Mayor Uzman took the Mayors Monarch Pledge on behalf of Malvern Borough in March 2023. In support of this initiative, the EAC, with assistance from master gardener Bobbi Tower, planned and planted native gardens, including the milkweed host plant at Borough Hall. In partnership with the Malvern Library, Zoë Warner presented a Monarch Talk on June 26. After the talk, participants were provided with milkweed plants for their own gardens and were invited to plant milkweed at Borough Hall. Helise Bichesky-Reilly and Zoë Warner drafted a resolution in support of the MMP that declared May "Nurture Malvern's Gardens" month. The resolution was passed by the MBC in August 2023. Borough Hall gardens were augmented in the fall of 2023, and there are plans to expand the gardens in 2024.

Stormwater Master Plan

Zoë Warner made a presentation to the MBC in February 2023 recommending Malvern develop a stormwater master plan. The presentation was well-received. Malvern will seek grant opportunities to fund this initiative.

Tidewater Rain Garden

Zoe Warner met with Cheryl Tomlinson, a resident of Tidewater, to walk the property to learn more about the ongoing stormwater problem experienced at Tidewater. In April 2023, Corinne Badman assisted Frank Ortner from the Paoli Memorial Association in applying for a grant to build a rain garden through the American Water Charitable Foundation. Unfortunately, the grant was not approved. However, Tidewater is now working with Willistown Conservation Trust to establish two meadow areas that will assist in stormwater reduction.

Malvern Retreat House

Michael Norton, president of Malvern Retreat, and Bob Humbert, MRH board member, attended the April 2023 EAC meeting. The EAC discussed opportunities to collaborate with MRH. The EAC facilitated a tree planting on MRH grounds in partnership with CRC Watersheds. The EAC will continue to work with the MRH on sustainability and stormwater issues.

Outreach and Education

The EAC has been working to increase its social media presence. Posts include opportunities for engagement in local environmental activities and educational content. Additionally, the EAC provides quarterly articles for the Borough Broadcaster.

In 2023, the EAC held several events and supported/participated in other organization's events:

- March 11: Parks & Rec Cabin Fever event
- March 25: CRC Streams Cleanup
- May 19: CRC Watersheds tree maintenance event in the Paoli Memorial woods
- May 25: Borough Hall native garden planting
- June 26: Monarch Talk and planting at Borough Hall
- September 30: Bird Town Bird Walk at Paoli Memorial grounds
- October 6-8: National Solar Tour
- November 3: Malvern Retreat House/CRC Watersheds Tree Planting
- November 25: Christmas on King bird feeder giveaway

EAC Expenses and Donations

The EAC has a budget of \$1000. Total expenditures for the 2023 were \$1,249.95. Expenses included: plant materials for Borough Hall and the Quann Park rain garden, materials for do-it-yourself bird feeder kits, an EAC branded table cloth for public events, 6 blue bird boxes, and a solar panel for a bird camera to be placed inside a blue bird box.

These expenses were offset by donations, enabling the EAC to within the allocated 2023 budget. Donations to the EAC included: a monetary gift from Mayor Zeyn Uzman for native plants for the Borough Hall gardens in support of the Mayors Monarch Pledge initiative, a shadow box from Manager Tiffany Loomis, and a painting of the watershed from Kurt Leininger.