

MALVERN BOROUGH
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

August 24, 2023
7:00 pm

EAC MEMBERS PRESENT:

Zoë Warner, Ph.D. Chair
Helise Bichefsky-Reilly, DO Vice-Chair
Christine Hafer, Secretary
Joanne Zhou
Cecelia Oswald, Ed.D.
Eric Beauregard, Alternate

ABSENT:

Tiffany Brouillet
Brendan Phillips

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 seconded by Joann Zhou and carried a vote of 6-0 to approve the minutes from the July 27, 2023 meeting.

Unfinished Business

1. Bird Town

Zoe Warner discussed the committee formation and member recruiting. A suggestion was made to bring in a youth ambassador and CRC members as well as others who are interested in being a part of the Birdtown initiative.

Eric Beauregard will lead an introductory bird walk with support from the Valley Forge Audubon Society in the Paoli Battlefield Park area. The bird walk will take Sept. 30 at 8 a.m. Cecelia Oswald will reach out to staff at Great Valley High School about advertising the walk to students. Christine Hafer will design an advertisement for social media about the event. Zoe Warner will reach out to Malvern Prep and Villa Maria to invite students to the walk.

2. Malvern Retreat House

Zoe Warner will contact the Malvern Retreat House about the tree planting with the CRC and plans for Randolph Woods. Eric Beauregard has a meeting set for Sept. 5, 2023, to discuss the memorial garden project with Malvern Retreat House.

3. PA Avenue Woods

The planning commission made an official recommendation to investigate the opportunity to keep the woods in their natural state and reach out to Eli Kahn to find out more about his development plans for the property.

4. Ordinance updates/proposals – “No Mow May” and Single-Use Plastic ordinances

Cecelia Oswald will work on these proposals.

5. Mayors Monarch Pledge

Zoe Warner reported that Mayor Uzman read the proclamation at the beginning of Borough Council's August 1 meeting. The EAC needs to discuss how to move forward with the project in advance of May 2024.

A decision was made to wait on the signage for the Mayors' Monarch Pledge until more options become available in the fall. Several members commented on waiting for a dedication event in the spring of 2024 to unveil a sign.

Helise Bichesky-Reilly will apply for the free native planting offered by the National Wildlife Federation. Recipients will need to pay for shipping and commit to planting the plants within three days.

Due to the lack of rain in June 2023, the EAC did not order all of the plants for Borough Hall gardens, so a suggestion was made to set a date for a fall planting of the additional Monarch plants. Zoe Warner will look into ordering the plants. Christine Hafer made a suggestion to collect and distribute native wildflower seeds in the spring to the community. Helise Bichesky-Reilly commented about partnering with the Malvern Library for this initiative.

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.

Zoe Warner and Cecelia Oswald will write an educational winter news article about restoring the nighttime environment and protecting the community from the harmful effects of light pollution.

7. EAC web page and social media posts

EAC members will start working together to add more content to social media and the website. Town residents could participate by sending in their own photos or tips about their environmental hacks. Helise Bichesky-Reilly would like to partner with Parks & Rec in a joint venture for the Malvern scavenger hunt in order to support social media content.

New Business

1. EAC budget and project proposals through the end of 2023

- a. Funds for the Monarch Pledge sign
- b. Cost of native plants
- c. Materials for bird feeders for Christmas on King event
- d. Giveaway for Christmas on King
- e. Sharing the cost of gift cards from Scoops and Smiles

2. Partnership with MBPA sustainability initiative

Zoe Warner will attend the Main Street Task Force meeting to discuss a possible partnership

Upcoming Events

1. Bird Walk – September 30 at 9:00 am
2. Solar Tour – October 6-8 - Corinne Badman can advertise the event and Christine Hafer will work towards recruiting town residents to participate with support from Mark King.
3. Dark Skies- October 20, 2023
4. Christmas on King event
5. Invasive removal event in Borough parks – February 24, 2024–Rain Date March 2, 2024
(Possible participation event with local schools)

Public Comment

John Buckley made a comment to include children in the town to participate in the bird walk and earn a certificate.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Christine Hafer seconded by Cecelia Oswald to adjourn the meeting at 8:23 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Christine Hafer