

EAC MEMBERS PRESENT:

Zoë Warner, Ph.D., Chair

Christine Hafer

Cecelia Oswald, Ed.D.

Brendan Phillips

Joanne Zhou

Eric Beauregard, Alternate

Helise Bichefsky, D.O., Vice-Chair

Tiffany Brouillet

CALL TO ORDER

Zoë Warner called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Christine Hafer, seconded by Cecelia Oswald and carried a vote of 5-0 to approve the minutes from the October 2023 meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Bird Town

a. member recruiting interviews and recommendations

Ilija Djordjevic, a Great Valley High School junior, shared his passion for birds and his interest in joining the Bird Town committee. He mentioned that he would like to work on increasing bird-friendly yards. He would also like to help with social media.

Sid Baglini, a Malvern resident, is a watcher of birds and has always had a passion for birds. She is interested in habitat preservation and is a certified backyard habitat volunteer for the National Wildlife Federation. She is also a former educator who would like to have educational programs and could write educational articles. She will be remote for part of the year and can zoom in for meetings.

Cheryl Tomlinson, a Malvern Tidewater Resident, has become affiliated with two bird conservation programs (Willistown Conservation Trust and the Pennsylvania Bluebird Society). She has begun creating a bluebird trail at the Paoli Battlefield. She will maintain the boxes and provide educational opportunities throughout the breeding season.

Cari Sullivan, a new Malvern resident, was on her high school environmental committee and took an ornithology course in college. She is also an amateur bee-keeper who is interested in working with children on conservation.

Tanisha Saran is a Great Valley High School sophomore who is interested in drawing birds as well as reaching out to other students to take more interest in the community. She is a member of the school Envirothon and Environmental Enthusiast clubs.

There are 5 openings for the Bird Town committee, and the EAC will vote to determine their recommendations for the borough council.

b. Bluebird boxes

Cheryl Tomlinson has installed 5 bluebird boxes at the Paoli Battlefield. She will be monitoring them to determine whether they need to be moved. Christine will provide a social media post for the new bluebird box trail.

2. Malvern Retreat House Tree Planting

Malvern Retreat House in partnership with CRC Watersheds planted 80 trees to create a riparian buffer along Ruth's Run on November 3, 2023. Jim Catrambone, of the Malvern Retreat house, wrote to the EAC to thank them for helping facilitate the partnership with CRC.

3. Mayor's Monarch Pledge – Borough Hall garden expansion

Borough Council approved the expansion of the garden bed to the right of Borough Hall in front of the police fence. The EAC will set a date to prepare the bed over the winter using cardboard and mulch. The garden will be planted in the spring.

4. No-Mow May Resolution

The resolution has been put on Borough Council's agenda for December 5, 2023. Cecelia Oswald will attend the meeting to present the resolution to the MBC.

5. Plastic Bag Ordinance

Cecelia Oswald wrote a proposal to end the use of single-use plastic bags in Malvern and shared Tredyffrin Township' ordinance for single-use plastic bags. The next step is to have the solicitor draft an ordinance. The EAC will review the ordinance and present it to the MBC for approval. Joanne Zhou made a motion, seconded by Christine Hafer with a vote of 5-0 to bring this proposal to Borough Council.

6. Christmas on King review

120 pinecone bird kits were given away at the event. It was well attended, and attendees expressed interest in the EAC as well as its initiatives. A suggestion was made for the EAC to be visible at the Malvern farmer's market in the spring and fall.

7. Community Composting Pilot Program review

A review of the program will be done at the EAC's January 2024 meeting.

8. Temporary meadow sign for Paoli Battlefield

Helise Bichesky will determine if the EAC can put a sign in the sign boxes near the meadow. If allowed, Zoe Warner will write about the benefits of leaving the meadow standing through the winter.

9. Malvern Business & Professional Association update

Helise Bichesky will attend their January 2024 meeting to discuss a partnership for environmental initiatives.

#### 10. EAC web page and social media posts

- a. Sustainable Living Tips from Borough residents – Resident articles are being posted on the EAC’s social media accounts, which are generating interest in the community. Cecelia Oswald will contribute with tips and articles as well.
- b. Newsletter article themes – Zoë Warner developed a list of topic themes based on past articles: Sustainable Living, Composting, Rain Garden, Lawn/Garden, Waste Reduction. Corinne Badman is working on archiving the articles from the newsletters. They will be posted on the EAC webpage under the appropriate topic.

#### NEW BUSINESS

##### 1. Sustainable PA initiative

Cecelia Oswald will look into applying for the Sustainable PA initiative in 2024.

##### 2. Year in Review

Zoë Warner reviewed the EAC’s accomplishments for 2024.

##### 3. 2024 EAC meeting dates

The EAC’s meetings for 2024 will be held on the second Tuesday of every month at 7:00pm.

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

1. Invasive removal event in Borough parks – February 24, 2023, rain date March 2, 2024
2. Cabin Fever Seed Giveaway – March 24, 2024
3. Burke Park Planting – April 2024

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment

#### ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Brendan Phillips, seconded by Cecelia Oswald and carried by a vote of 5-0 to adjourn the meeting at 8:46 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Christine Hafer