

EAC MEMBERS PRESENT:

Zoë Warner, Ph.D., Secretary
Christine Hafer
Brendan Phillips
Joanne Zhou

Helise Bichefsky, D.O., Chair
Brian Walker, Vice-Chair
Tiffany Brouillet

CALL TO ORDER

Zoë Warner called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Brendan Phillips, seconded by Joanne Zhou and carried by a vote of 4-0 to approve the minutes from October 27, 2022.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Borough Broadcaster - Winter

Tiffany Brouillet will write an article on spring cleaning. Zoë Warner will write an article introducing the Homegrown National Park initiative.

2. Community Composting Program

Tiffany Brouillet will submit answers to the questions Malvern Borough Council raised after her October 4, 2022 presentation to the MBC. The MBC will be voting on whether to approve the community composting program in the new year.

3. Bird Town Application

Zoë Warner will work on submitting the application to become a PA Bird Town. Malvern Borough most likely has 6 initiatives that fulfill the requirement to be a Green Level Bird Town. Once Malvern is accepted as a Bird Town and Borough Council has passed a resolution to pursue ecological initiatives, the EAC can determine which strategies it will work on to achieve the next level of certification.

4. Rain Garden – Protection

Assistant Manager Corinne Badman said Public Works will be putting up a post and rail fence to protect pedestrians from the steep drop at the top of the rain garden. Public Works would also like to put up a fence at the bottom of the garden to protect it from bikers while it is still getting established. The EAC asked that the lower fence be post and rail to match the top, but to design it in a way that it is not too tall and still invites visitors to engage with the garden.

5. Stormwater Master Plan

The EAC discussed the rationale for the recommendation to develop a Stormwater Master Plan for Malvern Borough. A motion was made by Brendan Phillips, seconded by Christine Hafer and carried by a vote of 4-0 to approve the recommendation. The recommendation to Malvern Borough Council will be a joint submission between the EAC and the Malvern Planning Commission if it votes to approve the recommendation.

6. Homegrown National Park Initiative

Members of the EAC will present the Homegrown National Park initiative to other Malvern committees at their January meetings. Christine Hafer and Joanne Zhou will present the initiative to the Shade Tree Commission. Helise Bichefsky and Brendan Phillips will present the initiative to Parks & Recreation. Zoë Warner will present to the initiative to the Malvern Planning Commission and the Malvern Library. The EAC will determine who will present the initiative to the Historical Commission.

The EAC is hoping to develop joint projects to increase habitat connectivity in Malvern Borough. Proposed projects include: developing a comprehensive tree list to meet the requirements of the Shade Tree Ordinance and providing more information for the semi-annual shade tree give away (STC), coordinating outreach events, such as a garden tour or building a native container garden (P&R), increasing green stormwater infrastructure (MPC), establishing a Malvern Book Club to read Nature's Best Hope by Doug Tallamy (Malvern Library), and celebrating and labeling Malvern's legacy trees (MHC).

NEW BUSINESS

1. Administrative Business

Nothing to report

2. DCNR Educational Event

Nothing to report

3. Budget Requests

For 2023 the requested budget will remain at \$1000.

REVIEW OF COMPLETE EVENTS

1. Quann Park Dedication

There was a ribbon cutting ceremony for Quann Park on December 9, 2022. In attendance were: members of Borough Council, a representative from DCNR, and state and local legislators.

2. Christmas on King

Christine Hafer distributed 100 recycled craft kits in the first 20 minutes of the Christmas on King event. The EAC collaborated with Parks & Recreation to provide crafts for the

remainder of the event. Christine suggested the EAC make a nature-based craft for the 2023 event (e.g., natural bird feeders made from pine cones). Planning for the 2023 event should begin in the spring.

FUTURE EVENTS

The EAC discussed possible events for the future, including: a tree giveaway, a garden tour with Malvern Library, and Malvern Business & Professional Association events.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Social Media – Christine Hafer has been posting on social media more frequently on behalf of the EAC. At Christmas on King, Christine provided information about the EAC and a QR code for the Facebook site to promote the EAC. The event likely helped to increase the number of followers. If EAC members find a relevant article or have ideas for a new post, they should send them to Christine or Corinne Badman.

PUBLIC COMMENT

John Buckley mentioned areas in the Borough where stormwater is not draining into the stormwater drains.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Brendan Phillips, seconded by Christine Hafer and carried by a vote of 4-0 to adjourn the meeting at 8:26 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Zoë Warner