

MALVERN BOROUGH
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
Malvern, PA 19355

April 27, 2023
7:00 pm

EAC MEMBERS PRESENT:

Zoë Warner, Ph.D. Chair
Christine Hafer, Secretary
Tiffany Brouillet
Joanne Zhou
Eric Beauregard, Alternate

Absent:

Helise Bichefsky-Reilly, DO Vice-Chair
Brendan Phillips
Cecelia Oswald

Call to order

Zoë Warner, Ph.D. called the meeting to order at 7:20 pm.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Zoe Warner, Ph.D. seconded by Tiffany Brouillet, and carried a vote of 5-0 to approve the minutes from the March 23, 2023 meeting.

Unfinished Business

1. Community Composting Program

Nothing to report

2. Bird Town PA Application

The Bird Town application was completed and approved. Zoe Warner signed off on it at the EAC meeting. The application now needs to be signed by MBC President, Amy Finkbiner. Then it can be submitted to the Bird Town PA program for approval.

3. Homegrown National Park Initiative

a. Shade Tree Commission & Historical Society

There should be a representative from the EAC, Shade Tree Commission, and Historical Commission to determine the structure/criteria for the legacy tree program and what goals we would like to accomplish.

b. Library

The Malvern Library will jointly host an event with the EAC on Monarch Butterflies. The program will include a presentation and an opportunity to plant milkweed in the new Monarch garden at Borough Hall.

The EAC will continue to collaborate with EAC on future events, including an inaugural bird walk (date TBD) and a book club meeting to discuss Nature's Best Hope.

4. Tidewater Rain Garden

Corinne Badman worked with the Malvern Memorial Park Association to submit the American Water grant for rain garden construction in the Paoli Memorial Battlefield Park.

5. MBPA sustainability initiative

The EAC will not participate in the Surfin' USA event. Christine Hafer and Tiffany Brouillet will attend the next MBPA meeting to discuss how the EAC can support the MBPA and work to make the Christmas on King event more sustainable.

6. Invasive Removal in Borough parks

It is too late to do an invasive removal event this year because the understory is too dense. We will plan the event for early 2024 in late winter. It could be an MLK Day of Service event.

7. Website content updates

Corinne put links to the composting program on the EAC web page. The EAC will work on putting links to previous newsletter articles, recycling information, and other topics of interest.

New Business

1. Malvern Retreat House Collaboration

Michael Norton, Malvern Retreat House President, and Robert Humbert, MRH Board Member, attended the EAC meeting to discuss opportunities for the Malvern Retreat House and the EAC to work together to enhance and celebrate the natural resources within the retreat's boundaries.

The MRH will be planting 700 trees (80% native) per year over the next 7 years on their 125 acres for beautification. In 2023, they have already planted 45 trees with support from an arborist. Zoe Warner would like the EAC to support a community planting event at MRH in the fall. She will contact the CRC Watersheds Association and Penn State Extension to see if they will be part of the effort.

Eric Beauregard volunteered to help the MRH in planning a memorial garden that would enable the public to plant a tree in memory of a loved one. Christine Hafer will contact the Penn State Master Gardener (Chester County branch) for educational resources.

2. Mayor's Monarch Pledge

Mayor Zeyn Uzman (via Zoom) discussed the decline of monarch butterflies in the area and the MMP initiative to plant milkweed throughout the community. He has 80 packets of milkweed seeds to distribute to the community. The other focus is to plant native plants to benefit pollinators and birds.

Zoe Warner and Bobbi Tower (Shade Tree Commission) discussed their proposal to support this project by creating pollinator gardens at Borough Hall. There will be a mixture of plugs, seeds, and specimen plants to demonstrate different phases of planning and planting a garden. Mayor Uzman pledged \$2000 of his own funds to purchase plants for the Borough Hall gardens. Some of these plants and seeds will be planted at the Monarch event and will be given away to attendees.

A proposed date of June 19 was set to make a presentation on Monarchs for the community.

It was also stated that Pennsylvania will have a special conservation license plate that will raise funds for pollinator habitats. This license plate will be promoted in the summer edition of the Malvern Newsletter.

3. PA Fights Dirty

The “Trash Talk” provides supplies for local PA cleanups. This is a resource if the EAC chooses to do a Borough-wide cleanup.

4. Chester County Stormwater Management Ordinance

Chester County has updated its stormwater requirements and has provided a sample stormwater management ordinance. Corinne Badman has distributed the ordinance to EAC members for their review and comment.

5. Dark Skies Initiative

Zoe Warner discussed the opportunity to collaborate with the local chapter of the International Dark-Sky Association. They have an active chapter in West Chester and have offered to attend an EAC meeting to provide more information and support for a local initiative to reduce light pollution in the community. Zoe also talked about the possibility of showing the short Dark-Sky movie before the next Parks & Rec Movie in the Park event.

Events

1. CRC Watersheds tree maintenance event – May 19, 2023
2. Borough Hall native garden planting - proposed date May 20, 2023
3. Monarch Presentation - proposed date June 19, 2023
4. Bird Walk co-hosted by Malvern Library - date TBD
5. Library book club discussion of Nature’s Best Hope - date TBD

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Christine Hafer seconded by Tiffany Brouillet and carried by a vote of 5-0 to adjourn the meeting at 8:51 pm.

Minutes submitted by Christine Hafer, Secretary