

MALVERN BOROUGH
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
Malvern, PA 19355

May, 25, 2023
7:00 pm

EAC MEMBERS PRESENT:

Zoë Warner, Ph.D. Chair
Helise Bichefsky-Reilly, DO Vice-Chair
Christine Hafer, Secretary
Tiffany Brouillet
Cecelia Oswald, Ed.D.
Brendan Phillips
Eric Beauregard, Alternate

ABSENT:

Joanne Zhou

Call to order

Helise Bichefsky-Reilly called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Tiffany Brouillet seconded by Christine Hafer and carried a vote of 5-0 to approve the minutes from the April 27, 2023 meeting.

Unfinished Business

1. Bird Town PA Application

Bird Town PA approved Malvern Borough's application to become a Bird Town. The MBC will be presented with a plaque to commemorate Malvern's participation in the program at the June 6 meeting. Zoë Warner suggested that a separate committee for Birdtown be formed with borough citizens and EAC members, including Eric Beauregard.

2. Mayor's Monarch Pledge

The Borough Hall Garden plants were planted on May 25, 2023. Additional plants will be planted in June. Helise Bichefsky-Reilly will work on the mayor's declaration and educational signage for the garden.

3. HNP Library Collaboration

There will be a joint monarch event on June 26 sponsored by the EAC and the Malvern Library. The program will include a presentation and an opportunity for residents to get milkweed plants to put in their home gardens. Social media postings will ask residents to share pictures of their plantings.

4. Malvern Retreat House Tree Planting

Zoe Warner spoke with CRC Watersheds about doing a tree planting at Malvern Retreat House. This will include a walkabout of the property to determine how best to move forward

with the partnership. Member of CRC, MRH, and the EAC would attend the walkabout. The hope is to have the tree planting in the fall.

5. Making MBP's Christmas on King more sustainable (Christine & Tiffany)

Christine has contacted the MBP association and is waiting for more information on how best to partner with them to make the borough events more sustainable. Ideas were presented about selling reusable mugs and using plastic-free materials.

6. Community Composting Program

Tiffany Brouillet is researching using brown bag leaf pick-up to be shredded or composted at a central dump site such as a local orchard.

7. HNP Shade Tree Commission/Historical Commission – On hold for now

8. Tidewater Rain Garden – The grant has been submitted and they are waiting for approval.

9. Chester County Stormwater Management Ordinance – The ordinance was passed.

10. Website content updates

Helise Bichefsky-Reilly will create a thematic list of newsletter topics the EAC has covered, so previous newsletter articles written by the EAC can be accessed easily from Malvern's website.

New Business

1. Dark Skies initiative

The Malvern Planning Commission will work on amending the ordinances to reduce light pollution. They will contact the International Dark Sky Association for help on this task. The EAC will provide support for the MPC as needed.

2. Borough Ordinances

There were suggestions for several ordinance updates/proposals. Cecelia Oswald will present suggestions for moving forward with ordinances addressing "No Mow May" for pollinators (with yard signs) and a Single Use Plastic Ordinance at the June meeting. At a future meeting we will discuss an ordinance to require gas powered lawn mowers and leaf blowers be phased out by some future date, possibly 2030.

3. Monarch Garden Publicity

Helise Bichefsky-Reilly will publish her article on How to Build a Monarch Garden on the Borough EAC web page. This will be done in conjunction with public event to inaugurate the Mayor's Monarch Pledge initiative.

4. Social Media

Christine Hafer and Eric Beauregard will work over the summer to post more content (relevant to the EAC and the local community) in order to educate the public and get more followers.

Christine Hafer will write an article on sustainable fashion for the fall issue of the Malvern Newsletter.

5. PA Avenue Woods

A 10 acre parcel on Quaker Avenue owned by Eli Kahn is an environmentally sensitive area that should be protected (not developed). The MPC asked the Borough Manager to reach out to the owner about his plans and the possibility of keeping the parcel as open space. The EAC will stay abreast of this issue and provide support for preserving the parcel.

6. CRC Watersheds Streams Cleanup

Cecelia Oswald volunteered to coordinate the Randolph Woods site for the CRC's stream cleanup in March 2024.

A motion was made by Brendan Phillips, seconded by Cecelia Oswald, and carried a vote of 5-0 that the EAC donate \$500 to become a CRC Watershed Steward and to make it a line item for future budgets.

Events

1. Monarch Talk – The event will be held on June 26 at 6:30pm at Borough Hall. The event will include a short presentation and an opportunity to plant milkweed in the Borough Hall Monarch Garden.
2. Invasive removal event in Borough parks – A date should be set for January or February of 2024.

Public Comment

Tiffany Loomis made the suggestion to share ordinance proposals with the Borough Solicitor to review the language in advance of a meeting.

Mark King made a comment about the lawn mower initiative. He suggested we determine the lifespan of gas mowers to help set the date for the phase out. He is also concerned about the

size of the homes being built in the area. Zoe Warner suggested he raise this concern with the Malvern Planning Commission.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Brendan Philips seconded by Eric Beauregard and carried by a vote of 5-0 to adjourn the meeting at 8:54 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 22, 2023 at 7:00 pm via ZOOM and In Person on the Second Floor of Borough Hall in the Main Meeting Room.

Minutes submitted by Christine Hafer