

Hatfield Township's Environmental Advisory Committee

Meeting

MINUTES

Meeting Date: Monday, January 14, 2013

Date of Approval _____

Call to Order: A regular meeting of Hatfield Township's Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) was held in the Township Building on this date. The meeting convened at 6:00 pm, Chairman Jim O'Byrne presiding, Karen Miller, Secretary.

Roll Call: Members of the Board in attendance were: Jim Bingley, Jim Bleakly, Bud Hyndman, Bob Lanouette, Chris Meager, Karen Miller, Jim O'Byrne, Ed Schweitzer, and Henry Zadell. Also in attendance was Devan Stewart. Adrian Reast has not renewed his membership and was not in attendance.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of the last Meeting were approved as printed.

Announcements:

- A. Andrew Haines will be leaving his position as Township Manager effective January 25th. The Commissioners are interviewing applicants for his position.
- B. Nancy Stock will be leaving her position as Parks and Recreation Director effective sometime in February.
- C. We have renewed our membership in the PA Environmental Counsel.
- D. Our application for the Environmental Education Grant has been submitted.

Citizens Comments:

- A. Bud Hyndman expressed concern about the current status of the Williams Kindig House and surrounding property. If it is the Township's intent to sell this property, and the existing tenant doesn't have some kind of lease/purchase agreement with the Township, then the process should be an open one where any interested parties could make an offer. There is also the concern of preserving the surrounding natural area as passive open space, so that it is not converted to a soccer field or something similar. And finally, in the event that the property is sold, an argument can be made that any proceeds from the sale should be dedicated to the purchase of additional open space in the Township.

Discussion Items:

- A. Goals for 2012:
 - We continue to want to do anything possible to get our schools and students involved in our issues. Devon suggests we try to get a representative from some of our elementary schools to actually come

Hatfield Township's Environmental Advisory Committee

Meeting

MINUTES

to our meeting to talk to us about what they may suggest as good projects and/or topics for their students. Also we might be able to visit the schools with programs promoting recycling or other relevant issues.

- The nature center needs a good clean-up. We should combine this project with our memorial to Charlotte. Chris suggests the meadow be mowed, disked and sown with wildflowers now, so it will be pretty for earth day. Would be nice to sponsor some nature walks at the nature center.
- Henry suggests several updates for our web site. He would like to see references and links to local facilities that will accept and recycle our eyeglasses, plastic bags, batteries, tires, antifreeze, and motor oil.
- We might invite youth groups, like the Boy Scouts, to setup Bluebird nesting programs in the Township Parks. Bluebirds require nest boxes, and open field habitats in order to thrive. Instructions and speakers re available for the Bluebird Society (www.thebsp.org) Might also expand our initiative to include martin houses and/or nest boxes tailored to other birds.
- We should encourage the Commissioners to adopt the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) park guidelines for: "Creating Sustainable Community Parks and Landscape," : http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/ucmprd2/groups/public/documents/document/d_000620.pdf . These guidelines emphasize programs for enhancing wildlife habitats, and the conservation and protection of water resources through the use of rain gardens, riparian buffers, porous pavements, etc. Many of these principals can be also be adapted to residential applications and as such might be appropriate for reference and links on our web site.
- Fund raising ideas include: (a) an environmentally friendly car wash event at the school road park; (b) T-Shirt Painting at the Roctoberfest; (c) more events like the Ford Go Further Tour; and (d) a possible art auction.
- Could we host an energy audit seminar, possibly ask on Bergey's Electric to put something together?
- The group would be interested in getting info on Gray Water, recycling, irrigation, etc.
- We are still interested in creating a webcam link for our web site to document one of our local red tail hawk nests.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 7:02 pm. Next meeting will be 06:00 pm on 02/11/2013 at The Township Building.

