

**ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**June 5, 2023 at 7:30PM**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**Meeting commenced at 7:35 PM.**

**Attendance:**

Present: Denise Rose, Letty Savage, Paul Minor, Stephanie Gundling, Cindy Crain, Jim Porcelli, Chris Hartigan, & Elisabeth Vasko

Guest: None

Absent: None

**Prior Meeting Minutes:**

The May 1, 2023 meeting minutes were approved.

**Old Business:**

Spring Roadside Cleanup

Tires and Dump Site picked up week after cleanup by Borough staff.  
Need to add photos and writeup to webpage.

Acorn Park Green-Up Day

Meet Saturday, June 10 at 9AM in parking lot  
Bring pruning shears, black garbage bags, bug spray, gloves  
Send email to litter volunteers  
Steph to bring cooler of water  
Letty to ID areas of park to work in.  
Steph to pick up box of supplies from Borough office.  
Jim, Paul, Letty, Me, and Chris plan to attend.

EAC Webpage Updates

<https://www.franklinparkborough.us/208/Environmental-Advisory-Council>

Community Garden (Letty to get Donna a photo)

Butterfly Pledge – Steph to summarize and send

Audubon Backyard Habitat – Steph to send

Ticks – Agreed to post PA DOH website

Garden Sales – not discussed

Leave the Leaves – not discussed

Do we have data on how many people are actually visiting? – Cindy to check.

Is current format able to be altered? Can we make a more modern phone-friendly, Instagram-like layout with photos?

Joint Comprehensive Plan

Elisabeth and Steph attended May 10 meeting.

Draft Comp Plan out for review to Steering Committee – Comments were due 5/31.

Borough Building Oak Tree Replacement

Five (5) native Serviceberry trees planted along West Ingomar.

Borough may want to install guards to protect trunks against deer antler rubs in the Fall.

Ordinance Review – Trees

Need to outline our approach and how to move forward with this hefty task.

Need to draft a document/summary of findings thus far.

Elisabeth provided a helpful document which we may want to pursue as a guide on how to move forward:

<https://www.isa-arbor.com/Portals/0/Assets/PDF/Certification/Tree-Ordinance-Guidelines.pdf>

Cindy to check with Borough Council on their future plans for ordinance revisions

Allegheny County Bicentennial Trees (EAC changed name to Franklin Park Remarkable Trees)

Four (4) of 15 trees listed in FP are still alive, as verified by Elisabeth who compiled a spreadsheet of findings.

Denise to draft an article and create draft of Nomination Form we can put on website to review next meeting, potentially print for distribution at Festival in the Park on June 24, 2023 at a fellow table. Fall newsletter article is mid-July.

Festival in the Park – June 24, 2023

No EAC members are able to commit to working the table this year, so unfortunately the EAC will not host a table and looks forward to doing so next year.

### **New Business:**

PA Lyme Mini Golf Event – EAC decided not to sponsor this year.

Village Garden Club of Sewickley, of which Letty is a member, was awarded a \$3,000 grant from Garden Club of America for a Propagation Workshop at Linbrook Park. More info to come.

North Hills EACs Meeting – Elisabeth attended the May 22, 2023 meeting and reported back to the EAC the following:

Looking for an August Meeting Location – Does FP want to host this or in the future?

Representative from North Area Environmental Council (NAEC) was at the meeting

NAEC (Organization-501c3)—looking for new board members—[naec.wpa.org](http://naec.wpa.org)

- Focus on water and air quality
- Can serve as a neutral/third party advocate for you in township
- Events: tabling at the Garden in the Park, involvement in North Park, hosted stream walk and discussed the ecology of the stream for Hampton Twp; hosted community speakers
- Internships available for students
- Pollinator/Wild flower garden kits as a way of bringing the forest to you. (10x10) patch. Available each spring at the Seedling sale. Bradford Woods sponsored bought 45 gave the kits out as part of an incentive/educational program. They brought in a speaker. (I have the information for the speaker and NAEC said they would help us if we are interested in doing something like this.)

Discussion of Projects of other EAC's in the North Hills

- Blue Bird Boxes—in North park and surrounding areas. Seeking to expand program.
- Pine township is currently creating a HOA contacts group. The goal is to have a liaison from each HOA to the borough. The EAC is also prioritizing membership on this committee. They are also starting a Junior EAC committee member, similar to that of the junior council member.
- WeconservePA.org. This website has a guide for EACs. On this guide they have suggestions for ordinances for trees/land use, etc. <https://weconservepa.org/eac/> You may already know about this, but I had not heard it mentioned as a resource. Their library is impressive. For example, here is a list of all ordinances passed: [https://conservationtools.org/library\\_items/topic/236-EAC-Ordinances-and-Resolutions](https://conservationtools.org/library_items/topic/236-EAC-Ordinances-and-Resolutions)
- Here is a guide to how to develop a tree ordinance: [https://conservationtools.org/library\\_items/592-Community-Tree-Ordinance](https://conservationtools.org/library_items/592-Community-Tree-Ordinance)
- Here is a guide on how to develop a wildlife friendly lawn maintenance ordinance: [https://conservationtools.org/library\\_items/2169-Guide-to-Passing-Wildlife-Friendly-Property-Maintenance-Ordinances](https://conservationtools.org/library_items/2169-Guide-to-Passing-Wildlife-Friendly-Property-Maintenance-Ordinances)

### **Action Items**

Steph – Add litter cleanup photos and other webpage updates, email volunteers about Acorn Park

Letty – Check on hosting future North Hills EAC Meet Up, get Community Garden Photo

Denise – Write draft article and nomination form for Franklin Park Remarkable Trees

Jim –

Paul –

Chris –

Elisabeth –

Cindy – Check on website format and if we have data on # of visitors, trunk guards on trees

**Meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM.**

Stephanie Gundling

EAC Chair