

**EAST BRADFORD TOWNSHIP
GREEN COMMITTEE
MEETING – October 1, 2013**

The regular meeting of the East Bradford Township Green Committee was held on Tuesday, October 1, 2013 in the East Bradford Township Administration Building, 666 Copeland School Road, West Chester, PA 19380-1822.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Bruce Arnold, Chair
John Hagens
John Johnson, Vice Chair
Don Scholl
Neil Weissman

STAFF PRESENT:

Mark Lucas, Township Engineer

CALL TO ORDER:

The Green Committee meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Mr. Arnold.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the Tuesday, September 3, 2013 meeting were approved; motion made by Mr. Scholl and seconded by Mr. Hagens.

REVIEW OF TREE PLANTING RESTORATION EFFORT

A group of about 15 people participated on Saturday, September 14, in an activity to remove debris from tree seedlings planted at Shaw's Bridge Park and the Brandywine Farm as the result of a recent flood of the Brandywine Creek. Once the debris had been removed, trees affected by the flood were straightened, missing deer tubes were replaced, and fresh stakes were installed to keep the trees and tubes vertical. Most of the people worked at Shaw's Bridge Park where the impact of the flood was greatest. Two folks worked on the trees at Brandywine Farm which had been planted in May of this year. Because of the more sheltered surroundings at the Farm, less problems occurred due to flooding.

Those who worked on the restoration work reported that it was important to have the stakes pounded deeply into the ground to maintain stability of the assembly in flooding conditions. It was reported that the inability of the Township Public Works Department to do frequent mowing in the affected areas, the long grass and weeds that resulted were swept up by the flood and put especially heavy pressure on the tree assemblies most affected.

Gerald Hertel, Adjunct Professor at West Chester University and Stewardship Manager of the WCU Gordon Natural Area has been working with a small team of students to do surveys of tree survival at Shaw's Bridge Park. Of the 1,000 tree seedlings planted on October 15, 2011, 56% are currently surviving. This is a low survival rate, but that is because of the planting being in a flood plain that is subject to occasional floods, some of which are substantial.

The Green Committee will seek email addresses for all previous planters and maintenance supporters of these tree plantings. All will be contacted to see who would be willing to help in the event of future floods where restoration work will be required. Once there are replies, a list of willing supporters will be maintained by the Green Committee and listed at the Township. The email list will all be contacted at times of need in hopes to round up sufficient workers to do needed restoration work. Mr. Arnold will coordinate with Ms. Holland at the Township Office to review past lists of email addresses. It was agreed that a survey of best times for volunteers to

show up will be conducted. At least a couple of weeks will be needed following a flood to generate a work team.

Discussion was held of the tools needed to do a sufficient restoration of damaged trees, tubes and stakes. It was agreed that the following were essential to doing a good job.

- Box cutters to work on damaged tubes.
- Long plastic electrical ties to improve stability of tubes to stakes.
- About 12 small hand held sledge hammers to pound stakes into the ground.
- Somebody with the combination to the gate at Shaw's Bridge for access to the damaged areas.

FURTHER PLANTING AT BRANDYWINE FARM

The planting of 750 tree seedlings at Brandywine Farm in May of this year resulted in the discovery that there were not enough trees to complete planting in all the areas available. Therefore, the Green Committee has agreed to generate a further planting in the spring of 2014 to finish the job at that site. Mr. Wes Horner at the Brandywine Conservancy (who has been instrumental in getting the planting materials in the past) will again be contacted to develop preliminary logistics for such an event.

It is agreed that this and any planting must be properly vetted with the other ABCs of the Township to ensure agreement with dates, locations, methods for acquisition of planting supplies and the full logistics of the process. To this end, Mr. Arnold will bring up tree planting at the next meeting of the ABC Chairs.

NEW MEETING TIME

The Committee heard from Mandy Cantlin asking for agreement to change the monthly meeting times from the first Tuesday of the month to the fourth Tuesday. There was unanimous agreement to make the requested change. We will begin the change on the fourth Tuesday on November (the 26th) at 6:00 PM at the Township Office. A topic for discussion at that time will be a review of the Strategic Plan priorities and selection of future work for the group.

ADJOURNMENT;

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 PM on a motion made by Mr. Weissman and seconded by Mr. Scholl.

Respectfully submitted,
Bruce Arnold
Acting Secretary