

**EAST BRADFORD TOWNSHIP  
GREEN COMMITTEE  
MEETING – February 18, 2014**

The regular meeting of the East Bradford Township Green Committee was held on Tuesday, February 18, 2014 in the East Bradford Township Administration Building, 666 Copeland School Road, West Chester, PA 19380.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Neil Weissman (chair)  
John Hagens  
Mark Pontzer

**STAFF / SUPERVISORS PRESENT:**

John Snook, Township Board of Supervisors

**GUEST SPEAKERS PRESENT:**

Kendra McMillin  
Wes Horner (Brandywine Conservancy)

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Neil Weissman.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

The minutes of the Tuesday, January 28, 2014 meeting were approved; motion made by Mark Pontzer and seconded by John Hagens.

**AGENDA ITEMS:**

- 1) Neil Weissman provided a brief update of the Monday February 17, 2014 Chairs Meeting, reviewing discussion topics that included the concept of the Township doing more with Social Media, a review of the upcoming Public Works Facilities Improvements project, and an initial discussion about the upcoming Comprehensive Plan.
- 2) Neil Weissman mentioned that the Township is looking for feedback on its website.
- 3) Kendra McMillin, Township resident and ecology student at West Chester University, gave the committee an update on the tree plantings at Shaw's Bridge Park.
  - a. McMillin divided up the park into five plots. The plots proceed in the following numerical order, as headed downstream: Plot 4, Plot 3, Plot 2, Plot 1, and Plot 5. Each plot contains approximately 100 trees. The newest section of planting, planted last year, was not included in the survey.
  - b. There is a 54% survival rate of the trees. Twenty-five percent (25%) of the mortality is caused by poor planting techniques, and 75% of the mortality was caused by flooding.
  - c. Discussion was held as to how to lessen mortality rates, the types of species best suited for planting, and the techniques and tubes used to ensure the most viability.
  - d. McMillin recommended three resources for volunteers. They are: West Chester University's Service Learning and Volunteer Office, the West Chester Tree Tenders, and the Tree Planting group at West Chester University. Tree Tender members are certified by the PA Horticultural Society and can assist in tree planting quality control so as to lessen the number of improperly planted trees. McMillin also noted that PHS has a "tool library" for tools needed for tree plantings.
  - e. Discussion was held as to the best time to remove existing tree tubes. Given that this area seems to have a less dense deer population, it was recommended that we consider removing the tubes once the trees outgrow the tubes by a few feet.

- f. Discussion was held to evaluate the likelihood of getting taller stakes for the next tree planting given the softness of the ground and the notable depth required to secure the stake in the ground.
  - g. McMillin shared information on the survivability of the different species of trees.
  - h. McMillin noted that this spring will be the last time a survey of the area is planned. She recommended the committee have someone review the plantings and make corrections as needed following a planting event. If future surveys are needed beyond this point more discussion will need to take place.
  - i. McMillin recommended caution in planting the wet areas around Plots 3 and 4, noting that it may just be too wet for the trees to be successful.
  - j. McMillin finished by bringing attention to the committee members that a road is being proposed for the Gordon Natural Area and a public meeting will take place at West Goshen Township building at 7pm on February 26, 2014.
- 4) Wes Horner, from the Brandywine Conservancy, discussed the tree planting to be held on April 12, 2014 at Brandywine Farm.
- a. Three-hundred trees will be planted. Costs and listings of the trees are attached. The area proposed is 1.28 acres immediately south of South Bridge road, west of the Brandywine River, near the intersection with Creek Road.
  - b. Given the data on tree survivability that McMillin presented, it was requested that Horner talk to the nursery providing the trees, Octorara Native Plant Nursery, and see if the most viable species and largest seedlings can be selected.
  - c. Horner will keep us updated as to the proper technique for tree tubes (i.e. whether the tube should be inserted into the ground an inch or just set on the ground).
  - d. Horner noted that the trees will be delivered to the site on the morning of April 11, 2014, and that trimming and cutting will need to take place approximately 1 week in advance by Township staff.
    - i. Neil Weissman volunteered to make a “to do” list for the event.
  - e. Horner noted that West Chester Rotary is sponsoring the event with the township by providing the funding and approximately 20 volunteers.
  - f. John Hagens volunteered to send out an email invitation to our “Tree Planting Email List” on or about March 1, 2014.
- 5) Neil Weissman proposed that we conclude the meeting as 7pm was drawing near and that we continue coordinating details of the April 12, 2014 planting via email. The committee agreed to this plan of action.

#### **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the committee will be on March 25, 2014 at 6:00 PM.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 PM on a motion made by Neil Weissman, and seconded by Mark Pontzer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mark Pontzer  
Acting Secretary