

Sustainability Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

July 25, 2023

PRESENT

Henry Alexander *Chair*
Melanie Vile *Vice Chair*
Dorothy Verdon *Secretary*
Susan Charkes *Member*
Scott DeLone *Member*
Ashley Gagné *Township Supervisor*
Tinamarie Smith *Township Supervisor*
Chris Bashore *Township Manager*

ABSENT

Natalie Caruso *Member*
Barbara Rinehart *Member*

The monthly meeting of the West Goshen Township (WGT) Sustainability Advisory Committee (SAC) convened virtually via GoToMeeting and was called to order by Chair Henry Alexander (HA) at 6:04 p.m. on Tuesday, July 25, 2023.

1. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Susan Charkes (SC) made a spelling correction of the word “standard” in the fourth line of Section 2.G. to the June 27, 2023, meeting minutes. A motion was made by Dorothy Verdon (DV) and seconded by Melanie Vile (MV) to approve the June 27, 2023, meeting minutes as corrected. All were in favor and the motion carried.

2. ONGOING BUSINESS

A. Trees

- 2023 Tree Plan:** SC reported that the only task left to complete the 2023 Tree Plan is to include the analysis of South Concord Park in the tree canopy study. MV said that she would conduct the tree canopy analysis for South Concord Park. SC said that the SAC should start work on the 2024 Tree Plan in the next couple of months so that we complete the plan in a timely manner. CB stated that on July 13 the township issued a request for proposals for the Parks and Recreation open space plan and that the Tree Plan was incorporated into this request for proposals.
- Further Work on Weeping Beech:** SC met with Davey Tree in preparation for obtaining an estimate for the same work for which Bartlett had submitted proposals. The property had become so overgrown since it was cleared last December that the Davey Tree representative said that he was not able to provide an estimate until the property is cleared once again. Consequently, he recommended that Davey clear the property. He estimated the cost to be \$5,300 for the clearing and for the removal of a large branch of the weeping beech that had fallen in the last six months. SC obtained an estimate of \$1,900 for the clearing and the removal of the branch from Ward Landscaping and she recommended that Ward Landscaping be retained to do the work. CB stated that this proposed work would be placed on the agenda of the next BoS meeting. SC then addressed how the township should take care of the weeping beech on a continuing basis. There is a need to conduct a significant amount of trimming and other restorative work already proposed by Bartlett. There is also a need to clear the property of undergrowth and apply fertilizer and pest control on a regular basis. The

SAC needs to obtain quotes on the trimming and restorative work, as it will continue to do when the site is cleared. A tree expert will have to be retained on a periodic basis to inspect the tree and apply fertilizer and pest control as needed. The SAC will obtain quotes for this work also. Finally, mowing and clearing of the undergrowth on periodic basis is necessary. This could be a landscaping business or the work could be incorporated into the work of the Parks and Recreation Department, with the appropriate increase in resources.

- B. Hamlet Crest Park Reforestation and Naturalization and Follow-up:** Scott Delone (SD) stated that there has been no need for watering of the trees in the last month due to the amount of rain that we have received. He said that all of the hickory trees and the three or four other trees had died but that the remaining trees were in good shape. He will continue to monitor them.
- C. Barker Park Larvicide Treatment:** Ashley Gagné (AG) said that she had talked to Andy at the Chester County Health Department. He reported that their tests indicated that mosquitos, some of which carried the West Nile virus, were present at the park this last summer, but he said that tests this year do not show high concentrations of mosquitos. AG said that Dorine from the Parks Department told her that she was told by Andy that there were mosquitos at the park, so there seems to be some uncertainty regarding the presence or absence of mosquitos. Dorine also said that Andy also advised Dorine that the township not place buckets containing larvicide in the park because that would make the situation worse. Andy also stated to AG that the water in the abandoned swimming pool located near the park has formed its own ecosystem and that they did not find mosquitos in the water. Andy said that he would like to get access to the adjacent sewer department facility so that he can test for mosquitos in the perforated manhole. Chris Bashore (CB) said that he would obtain that access for him.
- D. July SAC Newsletter:** DV suggested that the SAC take a break from submitting newsletter articles in August. The SAC agreed and no newsletter article will be submitted in August.
- E. EV Charging Units: Incorporation into Land Development Ordinances.** HA had sent to the SAC members a copy of a draft EV charging ordinance, described the structure and the sections of the proposed ordinance, and opened up the topic for discussion. AG indicated that this ordinance was of great interest to the BoS. The meeting participants then started what turned out to be a 90-minute discussion to revise a version of the West Chester Borough draft ordinance that had been edited by DV for typographic errors and for clarity. The following revisions were made:
- In Section A(1), the required percentage of new parking spaces that must be EV Ready for Level 2 chargers was increased from 10% to 20%.
 - In Section B(1), a subsection b was added that requires that, “[f]or any land development, including redevelopment, proposing at least 150 parking spaces serving nonresidential uses, at least 5% of the parking spaces shall be an EVPS served by a minimum of a Level 3 EVCS connection. This requirement is in addition to other Level 2 EVPS connection requirements outlined in section B(1). The Level 3 EVCS shall be available for public use.”
 - In Section C, an additional standard was added stating that “[t]he property owner shall have the sole responsibility of ensuring that all EVCS remain in working order at all times.”
 - Additional minor changes were made to clarify the intent of the proposed ordinance.

HA moved and SD seconded a motion to send the EV Charging Ordinance on to the BoS for their review. The motion carried unanimously.

F. Homegrown National Park Presentation: This agenda item was tabled.

G. Pedestrian Improvements: This agenda item was tabled.

H. Regulation of Application of Lawn Chemicals to Private Properties and the Use of Neonicotinoids: This agenda item was tabled.

I. Development of Sustainability Plan: This agenda item was tabled.

3. NEW BUSINESS

A. Revision of Screening Requirements in Section 84-55 (Design Standards) in Zoning Ordinance: This agenda item was tabled.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

5. MOTION TO ADJOURN

A motion was made by DV and seconded by MV to adjourn. All were in favor and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

6. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the SAC is scheduled for Tuesday, August 22, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. This meeting will be virtual.

Respectfully submitted on August 12, 2023, by Henry Alexander, Chair, SAC.