

## Sustainability Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

August 22, 2023

### PRESENT

**Henry Alexander** *Chair*  
**Melanie Vile** *Vice Chair*  
**Dorothy Verdon** *Secretary*  
**Susan Charkes** *Member*  
**Scott DeLone** *Member*  
**Natalie Caruso** *Member*  
**Barbara Rinehart** *Member*  
**Ashley Gagné** *Township Supervisor*  
**Chris Bashore** *Township Manager*

### ABSENT

**Tinamarie Smith** *Township Supervisor*

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, August 22, 2023.

#### 1. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

A motion was made by Dorothy Verdon (DV) and seconded by Susan Charkes (SC) to approve the July 25, 2023, meeting minutes as corrected. All were in favor and the motion carried.

#### 2. ONGOING BUSINESS

##### A. Trees

**1. 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. Melanie Vile (MV) said that the tree canopy analysis for South Concord Park has been completed and that the canopy coverage is 10%. She will send Susan the results. There was some consideration of the 2024 Tree Plan and Chris Bashore (CB) said that reference to the 2023 Tree Plan was made in the RFP for the Parks and Recreation open space plan project. An oversight committee is being formed for the project and two members of this committee would be from the SAC. SC and MV volunteered to represent the SAC. The 2024 Tree Plan will be developed concurrently with open space planning, although it will need to be prepared and approved by the BoS well before the completion of the open space project. This was not considered to be a problem.

**2. Further Work on Weeping Beech:** Ward Landscaping has been retained to clear the brush from the property and to remove the fallen branch of the weeping beech. Bernie Ward indicated to SC that he expects to complete the work in the next two weeks. CB directed him to notify Dorine McClune when he is to be out there. The next step in conducting work on the weeping beech is for Davey Tree to provide an estimate for the same scope of work as Barlett did. Ideally this estimate will be available to the SAC in time for our September meeting.

**B. Hamlet Crest Park Reforestation and Naturalization and Follow-up:** Barbara Rinehart (BR) has prepared the plans and the wording for an interpretive sign to be placed in front of the area that

is being reforested next spring when we complete the planting. The sign would be 14 by 18 inches. BR obtained a quote of \$480 from Goshen Signs for its preparation and installation. She asked the SAC to provide her with comments and any suggested revisions, if possible by next month. She also indicated that the trees are doing well but that there is deer browse of all of the foliage that has grown above the top of the tree tubes. Discussion ensued regarding how to prevent or minimize it. HA stated that he was aware of a Boy Scout that may be interested in working on the planting in the fall and spring as part of an Eagle Scout project. He will forward his name to Scott Delone (SD). DV asked what month she should place a notice in the newsletter requesting volunteers for the November 4 planting. It was decided that it should go in both the September and October newsletters. SD said that he will forward DV a link to a new volunteer sign-up list. HA asked that SD figure how to organize a group to clear the weeds from the area to the extent needed to prevent the weeds becoming a problem.

- C. Barker Park Larvicide Treatment:** Ashley Gagné (AG) reported that she will be providing Andy at the Chester County Health Department with access to the Sewer Authority land so that he can examine the manhole there for mosquitos. She will also be asking him for clarity on the presence or absence of mosquitos in the Barker Park area and follow up on a comment by him to Dorine that buckets containing larvicide in the park would not be effective in combating the spread of mosquitos in the area.
- D. September SAC Newsletter:** DV said that the deadline for the September newsletter is September 18 and so far we will place an article there requesting volunteers for the November 4 planting. Any further articles should be forwarded to her a few days prior to September 18 so that she can edit them and get them to Dandelions Digital. SC asked whether the SAC should place an article in the newsletter asking whether there are volunteers to be on the SAC. CB stated that he will be mailing out letters in September to the four members of the SAC whose terms are up at the end of the year (BR, SD, DV, and Natalie Caruso (NC)) regarding their interest in continuing on the SAC. At that time, the SAC could consider committee composition.
- E. EV Charging Units: Incorporation into Land Development Ordinances.** HA stated that the proposed EV Charging Ordinance was considered by the BoS at their August 15 meeting. At that time the solicitor provided her preliminary legal assessment of the proposed ordinance and found two significant issues with it. The BoS decided to hold further discussion over until a full legal review could be conducted and that they would consider the proposed ordinance again in September. CB has suggested, in the interest of moving consideration of this proposed ordinance forward, that a few SAC members meet with him and the solicitor in the next couple of weeks to consider the ordinance further. The two issues that the solicitor raised were (1) that the township does not have the authority to require that newly constructed individual housing units be “EV Ready” (by preinstalling the electrical equipment and raceways needed to hook up a level 2 EV charger) and (2) that under the under the MPC the rest of the ordinance could not be adopted as an ordinance but could only be adopted as part of the SALDO.
- F. Regulation of Application of Lawn Chemicals to Private Properties and the Use of Neonicotinoids:** SC asked the SAC to investigate whether the township is using neonicotinoids and to alert township residents and businesses of the toxic impacts of these pesticides. CB stated that he would find out whether any of these pesticides are used by the township if

someone would give him a list of the pesticides that contain neonicotinoids. SC said that she would supply this list. The issue will be considered further at the September meeting.

- G. Development of Sustainability Plan:** HA said that a sustainability plan merits a longer term discussion regarding the overall direction that the SAC recommends for the township and he asked how the SAC wanted to start such a discussion. SC recommended that we look at examples of sustainability plans proposed and/or adopted by other municipalities and she referenced plans from [Lower Merion Township](#), [West Vincent Township](#), and [Cheltenham Township](#). [West Chester Borough](#) also has a section of their comprehensive plan that is devoted to sustainability. These plans and others that we become aware of will be distributed to the SAC for future review and discussion.

**3. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Revision of Screening Requirements in Section 84-55 (Design Standards) in Zoning Ordinance:** HA introduced the topic by describing the existing screening ordinance and the goal of the BoS in fashioning a revised ordinance that inspires greater creativity and imagination than two rows of arborvitae or one row and a fence. CB described the buffering and screening requirements of Malvern Borough and provided the links to the [Buffering and Screening Ordinance](#), the [list of approved street trees](#), and a [plant materials list](#).

**4. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

**5. MOTION TO ADJOURN**

A motion was made by MV and seconded by BR to adjourn. All were in favor and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

**6. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the SAC is scheduled for Tuesday, September 26, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. This meeting will be virtual.

Respectfully submitted on August 29, 2023, by Henry Alexander, Chair, SAC.