

# Sustainability Advisory Committee

## Meeting Minutes

January 24, 2022

### PRESENT

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

### ABSENT

**Natalie Caruso** *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 Melanie Vile (MV) (who was still chair at that moment) at 6:05 p.m. on Tuesday, January 24, 2023.

#### 1. YEARLY ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The first order of business at the start of a new year is the election of officers. Chris Bashore (CB) presided over the election. Henry was nominated as the chair by MV with a second from Barb Rinehart (BR). There were no other nominations. There were no other nominations and the motion passed. Melanie was nominated as the Vice Chair by Dorothy Verdon (DV) with a second from BR. There were no other nominations and the motion passed. DV was nominated as the Secretary by MV with a second from HA. There were no other nominations and the motion passed. HA thanked MV for her dedication and guidance in chairing the committee over the last two years.

#### 2. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

A number of clarifying and typographical changes were recommended and accepted as appropriate. MV will make these changes. Also, BR and Susan Charkes (SC) requested that “cone [or conifer] trees” in the Hamlet Crest Park Reforestation Project be changed to “trees” because the types of trees will not be limited to conifers. With these changes, a motion was made by DV and seconded by MV to approve the January 24, 2023, meeting minutes. All were in favor and the motion carried.

#### 3. GUEST SPEAKER

**Discussion of Potential SALDO and Zoning Updates.** Mike Dunn from Brandywine Urban Forest provided an informal assessment of the township’s SALDOs and zoning ordinances. He stated that the West Goshen Township ordinances along with the ordinances of many other townships are somewhat antiquated and need to be updated with better design requirements for the urban landscape so as to be more biologically functional and to anticipate increasing rain events due to climate change. He described his experience and qualifications to conduct assessments of the ordinances and other related services and said that his firm has brought on a landscape architect to broaden the team. SC felt that we should be considering ordinance revisions sooner rather than later and recommended that it be placed on the agenda for the next meeting. CB indicated that he had worked with Mike in his previous job and recommended that Mike send examples of ordinance revisions he had written to the SAC for review.

#### 4. ONGOING BUSINESS

##### A. Trees

- 1. Weeping Beech.** Kristen Camp, WGT solicitor, who had drafted an easement for the historic weeping beech property, spoke with SC about some last revisions to the easement. SC stated that Kristen had sent the revisions to the land owner and SC thought that he had agreed to them. CB has sent the current version of the easement to the board of supervisors. Considering that we have received this version of the easement after the appropriate revisions were made based on our comments, HA made a motion to forward the easement onto the BoS for their review and possible approval. The motion was seconded by SC. All were in favor and the motion carried.

**Treatment Plan for Weeping Beech:** SC introduced Harvey Lerman from Bartlett Tree Experts. Harvey stated that over many years Bartlett has taken care of the tree. He said that the main trunk of the tree suffered from old age and needed to be removed. The 15 satellite stems that have sprouted from the roots of the parent tree are in generally good health; however, some require tree work. Harvey described the array of pruning, fertilizing, canker treatment, and monitoring needed to ensure a good future for the tree. MV asked about the time frame for the services to determine how quickly we might have to make a recommendation. Harvey stated that pruning is best done in the dormant season from October to mid-April; disease treatment from late March to early April; and fertilization any time but could be in March. HA observed that if this proposal needs to be implemented in a March through May timeframe, we need to make a decision quickly to be able to do it this year. CB indicated that our next meeting will be on February 28 and the BoS will be meeting on March 7. If the SAC makes a recommendation at our February meeting, it could be on the agenda of the March 7 board meeting

**2. West Goshen Township Tree Cover**

MV reviewed some statistics regarding the tree cover study and indicated that the study is nearing completion. The results will be presented to Parks and Recreation on February 15, 2023, at 6 pm, and to the BoS on February 21, 2023, also at 6 pm. CB will put the tree cover study on the agenda for Parks and Recreation and the BoS, and indicated the dates by which he would need the presentation materials to include in the meeting packets.

**3. Tree City USA Recertification Status.** Ashley Gagné (AG) coordinated with Doreen McClune and Dave Woodward on the application for Tree City Certification for the township. The application was submitted on January 16. The township exceeded the \$2.00 per capita expenditure required. The committee thanked AG for her working completing the application.

**4. 2023 Tree Plan.** MV said that this agenda item was put in the agenda as a placeholder and that there is nothing to report at this time.

**B. Hamlet Crest Park Reforestation and Naturalization**

BR reported on the Hamlet Crest project indicating that it was accepted by the Parks and Recreation Board. CB stated that the response was quite positive and that the project would be brought up at the March 7 BoS meeting. The Park and Recreation Board asked that the neighboring home owners be notified of the project. BR has started on a letter for the neighborhood and she and Scott has been lining up volunteers. Scott mentioned that coordination of volunteers and on-going maintenance of the trees could be an Eagle Scout project. Jen Roth, a resident, commented that, from her experience, Eagle Scouts generally move on to college and other pursuits and are less likely to be involved in ongoing maintenance. HA thanked the sub-committee for their work and asked what they need from the SAC.

BR indicated that the mulch issue was resolved but that we need to figure where the funds will come from for the cost of the mulch. HA stated that the cost of mulch is much reduced if we use hardwood chips, which are available from the Mulch Connection located in West Chester but that a source of the funding is needed. There was a discussion on the collection of cardboard for the sheet mulching, which became a moot point because it was subsequently decided to eliminate the cardboard from the mulching process. BR asked if there were township resources such as chairs, tables and tents that could be put on site for the people giving away the trees. CB stated that he thought so and that he would check with Dave Woodward. He asked BR to e-mail him with how many of what may be needed. MV said that she would bring 120 location flags.

**C. Barker Park Larvicide Treatment.** MV reported that she and AG had followed up with Andy at the Chester County Health Department. Andy stated that he could provide either pellets or granules of the larvicide. AG and MV reviewed maps showing where the Health Department had sampled for mosquitos at Barker and other WGT parks last year. Their trap was set up along the creek adjacent to the bridge by the parking lot on the playground side, where there is often standing water. There is continuing discussion of use of the larvicide in the parks regarding potential safety and liabilities issues and the licenses required for application

on non-residential properties. AG will get back to Dave Woodward regarding the township staff's concerns. There was extensive discussion on the relative safety of this larvicide because it is a naturally occurring soil bacterium rather than a hazardous substance. Various options for application of the larvicide were discussed. BR described the process on making traps in 5-gallon plastic buckets sparking discussion of this option. AG will check back with Dave Woodward regarding staff concerns.

- E. **Spring 2023 Energy Expo – Coordination with East Goshen Township.** HA stated that MV and he recently met with the three EGT representatives to plan for the EGT-WGT Expo that is to be held on April 15, with a rain date of April 16<sup>th</sup> in the East Goshen Park. HA and MV will continue to work with the EGT group and will report back to the SAC at our February meeting and request help from the SAC as we get closer to the date.
- F. **Newsletter.** HA proposed an article concerning benefits of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), with regard to climate change. DV does not know the due date because the calendars have not been released, but content for the January issue is likely due to Dandelions Digital around January 13, 2023. CB stated that for unrelated reasons, the January 13 date may be pushed out a bit. MV said that she would submit an article on the tree study.
- G. **SAC 2023 Initiatives.** CB said that since a discussion of the list of initiatives was not on the published agenda, a motion to revise the agenda would be needed to discuss the initiatives. A motion to amend the agenda to include a discussion of the SAC 2023 Initiatives was made by HA and seconded by BR. The motion passed unanimously. CB will post the revised agenda on the website. HA indicated that the SAC 2023 Initiatives were reviewed at the December 2022 meeting and are now being considered for any final questions or changes. There was discussion of the initiatives and their purpose and scope. SC questioned the meaning of “creative” in referring to “creative landscaping.” The intent was to differentiate it from erecting plastic fences with a few pine trees in front of them. Following discussion, there was general agreement that these would be our initiatives for the year.

### 3. **NEW BUSINESS**

#### A. **Plan for Incorporating EV Charging Units into Land Development Ordinances**

AG reported that a resident had raised the question of incorporating EV charging requirement into the SALDO and zoning ordinances. She stated that any such requirement is better placed into the zoning ordinances than the SALDO because it is more enforceable. CB confirmed that observation and also recommended that the place to consider such an ordinance change would be in the parking regulations. AG also indicated that Phoenixville has adopted an EV ordinance so there is a precedent in the local area. HA indicated that he would be willing to look into an EV charging ordinance and MV said that she would be interested also. CB reminded the SAC that the limit on the number of members coordinating on issues outside of regularly scheduled meeting is three.

### 4. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

### 5. **MOTION TO ADJOURN**

A motion was made by HA and seconded by DV to adjourn. All were in favor, and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

### 6. **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the SAC is scheduled for Tuesday, February 21, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. This meeting will be virtual.