

## Sustainability Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

April 25, 2023

### ABSENT

**Ashley Gagné** *Township Supervisor*  
**Tinamarie Smith** *Township Supervisor*  
**Chris Bashore** *Township Manager*  
**Natalie Caruso** *Member*

### PRESENT

**Henry Alexander** *Chair*  
**Melanie Vile** *Vice Chair*  
**Dorothy Verdon** *Secretary*  
**Susan Charkes** *Member*  
**Scott DeLone** *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 6:03 p.m. on Tuesday, April 25, 2023.

#### 1. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

A motion was made by Dorothy Verdon (DV) and seconded by Melanie Vile (MV) to approve the March 28, 2023, meeting minutes. All were in favor and the motion carried. Both Township Supervisors, Ashley Gagné (AG) and Tinamarie Smith (TS), and Township Manager Chris Bashore (CB) were attending a conference and were not present.

#### 2. ONGOING BUSINESS

##### A. Trees

1. **West Goshen Township Tree Cover.** MV updated the SAC with parks that need further tree plantings to reach the 30-40% tree canopy cover suggested by the Forest Service. MV will present the tree coverage report to Parks and Recreation on May 19, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. It will then be presented to the BOS at their June 6, 2023, meeting. CB will put the tree cover study on the agenda for Parks and Recreation and the BOS. **NOTE:** On May 9, 2023, CB informed MV that the Parks and Recreation meeting moved from May 19 to May 24, 2023.

2. **2023 Tree Plan.** Susan Charkes (SC) discussed the strategy for the tree plan. Based on the results of the tree cover survey, SC and MV will assess the needs of each park. The tree plan could focus on parks that have the least amount of tree canopy cover as well as on the mix of trees/shrubs to plant. We could also work on reforestation as we did for Hamlet Crest Park. MV pointed out that each park has unique features that will lend some parks more easily to tree plantings than others. MV and SC will work together to develop a 2023 Tree Plan before the May 2023 SAC meeting.

##### B. Arbor Day 2023 Celebration and Project: Hamlet Crest Park Reforestation and Naturalization

Barbara Rinehart (BR) informed the committee that we are ready for Arbor Day, with special thanks to Henry for his efforts on calculations, string work, and quantity of mulch needed. Upon our arrival at Hamlet Crest Park a week prior, all we had to do was place pins and flags to delineate where specific trees would be planted. Scott deLone (SD) updated the SAC on volunteer commitments, and we are in pretty good shape. Parks & Recreation have provided wheelbarrows, shovels, pitchforks, etc., and will set up multiple tents by 7 a.m. There will also be a port-a-potty on site, and water. BR said there will be neighbors stopping by and we should do our best to educate those in the community that are open to the information.

C. **Barker Park Larvicide Treatment.** Ashley Gagné (AG) was not present, so we will table this update until the May 2023 meeting.

- D. Spring 2023 Energy Expo.** HA and MV updated the SAC on the jointly sponsored Energy Expo by East and West Goshen Townships held in the East Goshen Community Park on April 16 from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m., which was the rain date for the event. As a result, we lost some vendors that do not work on Sunday, but we still had a great turnout. In fact, unexpected vendors set up tents and participated. Next year's Expo will likely be hosted by Westtown Township with EGT and WGT co-hosting.
- E. May SAC Newsletter.** DV said that the big story for the May edition of the newsletter will be the Arbor Day event - Hamlet Crest reforestation, and DV will write that up for the SAC. DV mentioned that she noticed articles in the newsletter with multiple pictures and would like our Arbor Day article to feature more than the usual single picture, and she will take those for the SAC. HA suggested we could also put in an article about the various ways one could switch over to clean energy as part of the WCA-CEF. The tree canopy study will be featured in the June 2023 eNews.
- F. EV Charging Units: Incorporation into Land Development Ordinances.** HA looked at the Phoenixville zoning ordinance on EV charging, and it seems okay, but is a little sparse in that only 10% to 20% of spaces will have charging units, but the ordinance is well written. When we look at the charging space in WGT Community Park, it seems as if almost no one is ever there, and we would like to look more carefully at the ordinance of what is being required, and if what is being required is enough; these are two different questions. SC asked to table further discussion until May as she has not had time to read the documents. The SAC agreed to continue to keep EV charging units on the agenda to discuss at future meetings.
- G. Revision of SALDO and Zoning Ordinances.** The BoS has been considering different buffer zones in proposals that are submitted for land development, and the latest is for the Wawa on High Street. HA stated that the SAC will increasingly be asked for review of the tree and shrub aspects of development plans, and it would be useful to consider these issues as the BoS and the Planning Commission consider land development plans. The SAC will continue to follow the development of plans for Wawa to consider what advice it can offer.
- H. EV Charging Project Construction.** The outcome of the study has indicated that the WGT municipal roof can support solar panel installation and all required infrastructure. Design work for the EV charging infrastructure is underway.
- I. Discussion of Homegrown National Park Concept.** BR plans to initiate education about the Homegrown National Park concept at the Arbor Day event using a brochure supplied by organization and downloaded from their website that DV customized with the WGT and SAC logos. BR would like to move forward proposing that we read about signage for WGT residents to be able to showcase this concept in their yards.
- J. Pedestrian Improvements:** HA examined the Route 322-New Street intersection to determine how easy it was for pedestrians to cross, and the conclusion was that it was not at all safe, and in fact, there are signs that prohibit pedestrians from crossing the intersection. The SAC would like to see if we can come up with a feasible plan to help fix this problem with less sophisticated solutions at first (pedestrian crosswalk reflective paint) and a delayed signal, with a more permanent solution such as an elevated crosswalk bridge, for example. HA pointed out that pedestrians typically have the right to travel on a road unless it is a limited access highway such as I-95. SC pointed out that New Street is a township road, and perhaps the best we can do is to start a discussion with WGT to revisit the decision

to put up anti-pedestrian signs. HA offered to contact PENNDOT to understand their thinking on the issue and will report back in May 2023.

**3. NEW BUSINESS**

- B.** Bamboo: HA brought up bamboo as a code violation as it is prohibited in WGT, and asked SC to look into it further. DV asked where this could be found (what ordinance and where) but found it and shared the link.

**4. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Richard Cahoone (spelling?) lost his wife to pancreatic cancer and she was on the 'hypersensitive list.' In WGT, lawn companies are required to give 12-24 hours advance notice where residents are classified as hypersensitive, yet often, that did not happen. He suggested that WGT consider certain options: (1) when lawn chemical companies come into the neighborhood, there should be a Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) sheet outlining the dangers of the chemicals they are spraying, which are communicated to the surrounding residents; (2) there should be better protection for the workers who are being exposed daily; and (3) quantification of the amount of chemicals that are being sprayed annually.

**5. MOTION TO ADJOURN**

A motion was made by BR and seconded by MV to adjourn. All were in favor and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

**6. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the SAC is scheduled for Tuesday, June 27, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. This meeting will be virtual.

Respectfully submitted on May 16, 2023, by Melanie Vile, Vice Chair, SAC.