

Sustainability Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

October 24, 2023

PRESENT

Henry Alexander *Chair*
Dorothy Verdon *Secretary*
Scott DeLone *Member*
Natalie Caruso *Member*
Barbara Rinehart *Member*
Ashley Gagné *Township Supervisor*
Tinamarie Smith *Township Supervisor*
Chris Bashore *Township Manager*

ABSENT

Melanie Vile *Vice Chair*
Susan Charkes *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 6:02 p.m. on Tuesday, October 24, 2023.

1. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

A motion was made by Dorothy Verdon (DV) and seconded by Barb Rinehart (BR) to approve the September 26, 2023, meeting minutes as corrected to indicate that AG was at the meeting cited in Section 2.E and that John Hellmann was not at the meeting. All were in favor and the motion carried.

2. ONGOING BUSINESS

A. EV Charging Units: Incorporation into Land Development Ordinances. The SAC engaged in a wide-ranging conversation regarding the structure of the proposed ordinance and the legal issues with various parts of the ordinance. Included were:

- Discussion of the types of chargers that are used in short and long term parking;
- How to identify short and long term parking in the ordinance (whether by land use or by projected length of parking);
- Whether or not to specify specific charger levels (levels 1, 2, or 3);
- Whether the ordinance should require or recommend the percentage of parking spaces that are equipped with EV charging stations; and,
- Whether the ordinance should simply ask the developer to provide an estimate of the number of EV parking spaces based on industry studies (assuming these studies exist).

It was concluded that:

- The ordinance should go into the SALDO rather than the zoning portion of the code;
- The ordinance should not specify what level of charging is required because the township is not the best judge of that;
- The number of EV chargers needed in nonresidential parking areas is greater in those parking areas that service workers than those servicing shoppers at commercial establishments.

It was agreed that KC would redraft the ordinance based on the comments and be reconsidered at the November meeting.

B. Trees - Further Work on Weeping Beech: HA reported that Davey tree had submitted an estimate and proposal for fertilization, pest control, and pruning for the first year (2023) in a

similar manner as the Bartlett proposal did for the first year. Because it was submitted the day before the meeting and because of difficulties in comparing the proposals from Davey and Bartlett, the SAC could not make a determination as to which company should perform the work. The SAC decided to postpone a decision until we can make a more informed decision.

- C. Hamlet Crest Park Reforestation and Naturalization and Follow-up:** Barbara Rinehart (BR) listed the details of the planting that she had taken care of and the SAC made last minute checks. SD will publicize the need for volunteers and will be collecting cardboard for the sheet mulching. SD and HA will mark out the plant locations a couple of days before the planting. DV is providing recommended revisions to the plans and the wording for an interpretive sign, which is to be placed in front of the area next spring.
- D. Barker Park Larvicide Treatment:** AG had no additional information this month to provide. The mosquito season will soon be over anyway. The SAC can look into the issues with mosquitos prior to next season.
- E. October SAC Newsletter:** DV will place two items in the newsletter, one announcing the November 4 planting and calling for volunteers and the other letting residents know that there will be two positions open on the SAC starting in January and urging those interested in serving on the SAC to contact CB.
- F. Regulation of Application of Lawn Chemicals to Private Properties and the Use of Neonicotinoids:** CB reported that the Parks Department does not use neonicotinoids. However, their contractor does use them on the ball fields and to treat for the emerald ash borer. A substitute for this pesticide could be found but it would be four times as expensive as a neonicotinoid. CB stated that he would find out what the alternative pesticide is and what the additional annual cost would be for the substitute. The SAC will hold off in drafting a letter regarding the use of neonicotinoids until next meeting.
- G. Development of Sustainability Plan:** There was no further discussion regarding development of a sustainability plan at this time. The Committee may take up such an effort in the future but not at this time.
- H. Revision of Screening Requirements in Section 84-55 (Design Standards) in Zoning Ordinance:** The Committee discussed ideas for the revision of the screening requirements in the zoning ordinance and considered the Malvern ordinance as a possible substitute for the screening requirements currently in the ordinance. An ordinance like the Malvern ordinance could be used to guide the decisions of developers as they consider the appropriate screening for their specific development. It was agreed that the SAC would revisit this topic next month.

3. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Presentation by Mother Compost:** Tiffany Kennedy from Mother Compost presented its programs for collecting and recycling compostable wastes in the West Chester area and the opportunities for the expansion of their services to more customers in the township. A copy of the slide that she presented is appended to these minutes. It contains Tiffany's contact information.

- B. **Consideration of SAC Membership in 2024:** CB reported that BR and Natalie Caruso (NC) have chosen to go off of the SAC at the end of their terms in December. HA thanked BR and NC for their service on the SAC and extended a special thanks to BR for her championing of the Hamlet Park project. The SAC will be looking for two additional members in the coming months and DV will be sending out a notice in the newsletter requesting resumes from interested volunteers.

- C. **Tree Removal Ordinance:** At the September meeting, Tinamarie Smith (TS) had brought up an ordinance that Tredyffrin Township adopted, which regulates tree removal and replacement on private land and asked whether the township might adopt a similar ordinance. This would require a permit system and township oversight. The consensus of the SAC members was that a permit system for tree removal would be overreach of the township into property owner's rights.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment but CB mentioned that the December SAC meeting is scheduled for the day after Christmas. The SAC decided not to have a December meeting.

HA mentioned an offer by the Stroud water Research Center and the Red Clay Alliance to plant trees in townships in the area and tend them for three years free of charge. The SAC showed interest in seeing whether Barker Park might be a candidate for such planting.

5. MOTION TO ADJOURN

A motion was made by DV and seconded by BR to adjourn. All were in favor and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

6. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the SAC is scheduled for Tuesday, November 28, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. This meeting will be virtual.

Respectfully submitted on October 17, 2023, by Henry Alexander, Chair, SAC.