

**Borough of Mechanicsburg
Environmental Advisory Council Meeting
November 20, 2007**

Santo called the meeting to order at 6:35.

Attendance:

Borough Council Members: Charlie Ryder

EAC Members: Susan Richards, Sara Nicholas, Ron Santo, Erin Arva, Glen Weber

Borough Staff: Glenda Boyer, Ron Adams, Borough Sewer Dept.

Visitors: Greg Bartikoski

Reading and Approval of Minutes

October Minutes accepted subject to correction

Guests/Public Comment

Greg Bartikoski attended the meeting to describe his plans for the rain garden at the sewage plant. He presented a tentative layout for a planting area of approximately 8' x 25'. His plans call for 126 plants. His tentative plan includes four plant varieties. He requested suggestions for additional beneficial plant varieties.

He also listed several items that require financial or in-kind assistance. They include: funds for or donated plants, earth moving equipment such as a bob cat and top soil. Santo offered that the EAC could fund the plant material. It was suggested that duck boxes be installed near the pond as well as a sign. It was also suggested that Greg should plan to visit the West Hanover rain garden site.

Additions to the Agenda

No additions

Correspondence

None noted

Borough Council Report

No Council Report

Reports of Officers and Committees

The EAC Job Description drafted by Santo was reviewed and suggestions were solicited. It was suggested that "some volunteer time on weekends," and "Evening Meetings" be added. Santo will make changes and give the description to Boyer.

It was announced that Viti will not seek reappointment at the end of the year and the vacancy will be advertised. It was suggested that any potential candidates to replace Viti be contacted. Santo will email the description and application to the group.

Old Business

- Webpage Updates - Arva discussed updates to the EAC web page. They included adding a write-up about the seedling giveaway, an E-day write-up, up-to-date minutes, and EAC vacancy announcements. Arva volunteered to be the website point person
- EAC Charter Initiatives
 - Strategic Plan – It was agreed that the next step will be for EAC members to determine action steps that will contribute to the achievement of the goals in the plan. Discussion about the plan was tabled. A final version of the plan will be sent out, members are asked to consider which initiatives they would like to champion.
 - Establish Index of Open Areas – Richards will contact Boyer about the availability of an electronic version
- EAC Calendar – No additions
- Training Opportunities – No additions
- Planning & Zoning Commission Activities
 - Baker reported a new version of the Hess Farm plan was submitted to the Commission
 - Review and revision of zoning ordinances will occur this spring in accordance with the Comprehensive Plan.
 - The Planning Commission has formed a committee to work with the Borough Council to give technical support for planning issues

New Business

- It was agreed the EAC will fund a \$200 sponsorship for the 2008 E-Day

Other Business

- Harry Baker provided copies of an article on biofuels from Smithsonian Magazine

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10

Next EAC meeting – January 15, 2008