

## Sustainable Audubon Meeting Summary for February 2, 2022

Attendees: Denyse Bieg (DB); Ann Gillespie (AG); Cheryl Hauske (CH); Rob Jakubowski (RJ); Jeanne Mugler (JM); Chris Proulx (CP) (School Board); Terry Sugihara (TS); and Melissa Wintermute (MW)

1. RJ: Update of Sustainable Audubon participation in Community Energy Plan Grant and proposal status.

Commissioners approved applying for the grant with further discussion and/or presentation to occur at the February 15, 2022 Commissioner's meeting. Initially a broad approach will be taken in defining areas of interest within the grant. The role of the to-be-selected consultant will be to focus this effort based on his professional judgement.

Expected sewer work will be competition for the allocation of any available municipal funding. This will likely restrict the amount of money that can be applied toward energy plan implementation.

Status of the application will be updated and the application discussed at the next Sustainable Audubon meeting as well as the Commissioner's meeting in March. The grant submission period closes March 18, 2022. RJ will shortly approach potential consultants with the particular aims of defining budget needs and enlisting their services for developing an energy plan. RJ will be writing the grant application.

2. JM and TS: Updates on Solar power at the Shed and discussions with Advanced Renewable Solutions.

The solar panel installation at the Shed passed its electrical and building construction inspections. Further Shed repairs and upgrades will await better weather to be completed. Note that subsequent to this meeting, a motion activated light (to replace the existing fixture) was installed by Riggs Distler over the Shed door to conserve battery power.

Outreach to Advanced Renewable Solutions has seemingly reached an impasse. Other solar panel companies will be approached by TS to potentially partner with Sustainable Audubon in the near future.

3. MW: Arts & Culture team update.

The Arts and Culture Team is still organizing. A meeting, possibly in March, with all the arts groups is still being considered. Ken Leap of Reimagine Runnemedede (RR) has suggested attendance by MW and a Sustainable Audubon member at a series of RR meetings and public meetings. MW described some of the activities that RR is planning.

Sustainable Audubon participation beyond the Arts and Culture Team is to be discussed further prior to making a commitment.

MW expressed, on behalf of the other arts groups, a reluctance to work with the Borough and other town officials in general. RJ pointed out that Sustainable Audubon actually has 501(c) (3) status and therefore as part of Sustainable Audubon, the Arts and Culture Team would be distinct from the Borough. Restarting the Steven Wilson mural as well as creating a rainbow bench for the Audubon business district were presented as potential first steps for the Arts and Culture Team. Coordination, regarding the rainbow bench, with the Greater Audubon Business Association was suggested as a courtesy with approval expected to be a formality because of the nature of the association's membership.

4. RJ and TS: Stormwater study status update.

Haddonfield is spearheading the effort funded by the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission grant. Haddonfield, Audubon, Barrington, and Haddon Heights are participating. Pennoni Associates was contracted to do the work and is currently taking inventory of all the stormwater inlets and outfalls. Potential green infrastructure improvements, engineering solutions, and cost estimates will be developed in later phases. Implementation funding will need to be obtained by the participating towns.

There seems to be difficulty getting information about the four town stormwater study. The Haddonfield business administrator has not been responsive to requests for information and grant documentation. TS will be attending a February 11, 2022 Zoom meeting of the Newton Creek Watershed Association where Audubon's participation in the study will be discussed. The intention is to again express the difficulty in finding out what is happening despite a public participation process being in place.

Other Audubon locations where flooding occurs such as Graisbury Avenue, Walnut Street, and Oak Street were suggested and discussed as possible locations where improvements would be desirable.

5. JM: Social media update.

Social media efforts include: Laura Kelly (LK) is working on a Meatless Monday topic as well as Chemical Free Food theme. Ella Ingves (EI) is focusing on a Zero Waste Wednesday subject.

6. AG: TREX recycling update. Bench placement status.

We are 60 pounds away from our new Trex bench goal with 3 months to go. Placement of all benches will occur in the Spring. One is being stored and is reserved for the

Memorial Grove. The next bench is tentatively proposed to be placed near the Recreation Center.

A concern was expressed about anchoring two of the benches near the Shed and that by doing so, lawn maintenance will be more difficult. A walkway with a to-be-determined location will also have to be factored in. Final resolution of the issue was postponed to just prior to the not yet scheduled Spring installation.

7. RJ: Insurance required training.

The training is required whenever groups are working with children. Dani Ingves (DI) will be reaching out by email to everyone separately to coordinate the on-line training.

8. JM: Audubon Day.

Anticipated date of Audubon Day is April 30. Location specifics are still being worked out, but the Recreation Center and Merchant Street are candidate locations. Proposed activities for Sustainable Audubon are: Tote bag giveaway; Stormwater program; Recycling game; Solar light giveaway; Sapling giveaway; Milkweed pod giveaway; and possibly, an Electric car static display. Note that subsequent to the meeting, the car display was deleted from the list of potential activities.

9. AG and CH: Souls4Shoes project, Arbor Day tree seedlings.

The Souls4Shoes project was discussed, but participation was decided against because of the high cost of shipping involved. Approximately 1,000 trees of various species will be available for distribution as part of the New Jersey tree recovery program. Distribution will be part of the Audubon Day, Sustainable Audubon activities.

10. DB: Recertification with Sustainable Jersey.

Status of the potential re-certification effort was presented. Ultimately, it was decided on advice of DB that we would postpone trying for re-certification at the Bronze level for now.

11. Other/new business.

JM brought up information from TriCounty Sustainability. This included:

- a. The Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions (ANJEC) newsletter
- b. Chemical free farms: Rancocas Creek Farm run by the Pinelands Preservation Alliance and Free Haven Farm in Lawnside, New Jersey
- c. Recent legislation in New Jersey – pesticides, appliance standards, Green Amendment, Green Infrastructure, and NJ Recycled Content Law.
- d. Single use plastic bag ban goes into effect May 4, 2022.

12. Date of next meeting is 7:00 Wednesday, March 2, 2022 at the Audubon Senior Center.
13. Review of tasks to be done from this meeting.
  - a. RJ to contact consultants regarding Community Energy Plan Grant.
  - b. RJ to write application for Community Energy Plan Grant.
  - c. TS to seek solar firm for Sustainable Audubon to partner with on community outreach.
  - d. MW to provide update on Arts and Culture Team organization progress.
  - e. TS to liaison with Newton Creek Watershed Association regarding the four town stormwater management effort.
  - f. DI to coordinate with the group on insurance required training.