

Sustainable Audubon Meeting Summary for May 4, 2022

Attendees: Denyse Bieg (DB); Cheryl Hauske (CH); Rob Jakubowski (RJ); Jeanne Mugler (JM); Elizabeth Quinn (EQ); Terry Sugihara (TS); and Melissa Wintermute (MW)

1. RJ and JM – Audubon Day review: The consensus was that Audubon Day was a huge success and that the location at Audubon Family Park contributed significantly towards that success. Thanks are extended to Elle Ingves (EI), Bob Mugler (BM), Ann Gillespie (AG), JM, DB, EQ, CH, and TS for covering the Sustainable Audubon (SA) table. Specific to SA, donations in the amount of \$34 were collected as part of the reusable tote bag distribution. The free tree giveaway of 500 trees was also very popular as were the Cedar Run Wildlife Refuge animal program; recycling game; and the stormwater education program.
2. RJ – Aimee Bentley, professional horticulturalist, presentation on potential Audubon tree program: The planned presentation was postponed until the next meeting in June. JM will coordinate the rescheduling as well as advice regarding potential American elm tree propagation (Audubon record tree) and the planting and care of the Salem Oak.
3. TS – Salem Oak location and care discussion: Potential placement of the Salem Oak in an open area between the play areas and the Memorial Garden was one of the locations discussed. RJ indicated Audubon has already committed the oak's placement to a location in Audubon Family Park. Also discussed was the creation of a native plant garden surrounding the oak to serve as a marker of its location and to protect it from disturbance. This native plant garden is a potential substitute for the previously discussed Camden County Park native planting efforts. More formal plans (location and design) are to be further developed by EQ, JM, and TS. As part of this, advice is also to be solicited from Aimee Bentley on location, planting, and care. EQ volunteered to oversee future care for both the oak and the associated garden. RJ indicated Department of Public Works would be available to provide support as needed. Plans for a suitable Salem Oak sign were deferred to the future and would be handled by RJ. Note that the actual Salem Oak was inspected following the meeting.
4. Dani Ingves (DI) – Walmart grant: In the absence of DI preliminary discussions of grant details were discussed. JM shared information that DI had provided earlier. JM and TS will follow up on this topic with the initial step obtaining advice on how to proceed from DI.
5. DB – Bronze recertification discussion: DB concluded that the Bronze recertification should be postponed for now after consultation on requirements and timing for this year with Sustainable Jersey. The group concurred with her assessment.

6. DI - Shredding event update: In the absence of DI, it is presumed there is no change from the last meeting.
7. Chris Proulx (CP) – Discussion on how to best encourage or support Audubon High School teacher student projects (including solar energy panel installation): Discussion postponed due to CP absence.
8. MW – Arts and culture update: MW has coordinated with the other members of the arts and culture group and indicated they are still active. They are looking to reserve the Audubon Senior Center for meeting purposes through DI.
9. EQ and JM – Update on Haddon Lake native plant initiative: No changes since the last meeting.
10. AG - TREX recycling update: AG provided the information that 75 lbs. of single use plastic had been collected in April 2022 resulting in the recycling of 750 pounds total weight for the 6 month period November 2021 through April 2022. This qualifies SA for another TREX bench which is tentatively designated for the Audubon Recreation Center. The next cycle is from May 2022 through October 2022. AG will forward any information concerning delivery of this newest bench when it becomes available.

TREX bench for the Memorial Garden remains in the Shed unassembled. The Department of Public Works will handle assembly, placement, and securing of the bench.

11. RJ - Update of Sustainable Audubon participation in Community Energy Plan Grant and proposal status: No change from the last meeting.
12. DI - Insurance required training update: No change from the last meeting.
13. Other/new business
 - a. Participation in a future SA event by the National Audubon Society was brought up by RJ and discussed. The consensus endorsed this idea.
 - b. DB proposed that we organize a program to collect and reuse plants that would be potentially discarded from events such as Easter and Mother's Day. Drop off at the Shed would be followed by processing and storage of bulbs in the Shed (or a to be determined location) for future use. This effort is patterned after a similar Oaklyn program. The announcement and advertisement of this effort would be via Facebook. JM will look into the details on how to use Facebook to do this.
 - c. The Lights Out program is a wildlife protection measure trying to minimize potential bird strikes during the Spring and Fall migrations. Lights, particularly on tall

buildings, “attract” birds in flight resulting in bird strikes. The program was discussed but it was concluded the lack of tall buildings in Audubon likely minimizes its applicability to Audubon.

- d. JM brought up SA participation in the upcoming Third Friday on May 20, 2022. JM will solicit volunteers to determine if this can be done.
14. Date of next meeting is 7:00 Wednesday, June 1, 2022 at the Audubon Senior Center.
 15. TS - Review of tasks to be done from this meeting (developed post meeting):
 - a. JM coordination with Aimee Bentley on presentation and advice requests.
 - b. EQ, JM, and TS to develop initial Salem Oak plans.
 - c. JM and TS to reach out to DI on potential Walmart grant.
 - d. DI to find out about the participation of other towns regarding the shredding event as well as determining the proposed location for the event.
 - e. DI to coordinate insurance required training.
 - f. JM will draft a Facebook solicitation for the plant collection program.
 - g. JM will solicit volunteers for the May 20, 2022 Third Friday to determine if SA will participate.
 16. Post Meeting Addition: JM is investigating the opportunity for SA to procure and sell rain barrels.