

Sustainable Audubon Meeting Summary for June 1, 2022

Attendees: Ann Gillespie (AG); Cheryl Hauske (CH); Rob Jakubowski (RJ); Jeanne Mugler (JM); Sandy Perchetti (SP); Elizabeth Quinn (EQ); and Terry Sugihara (TS).

1. Aimee Bentley (AB), professional horticulturalist, presentation on potential Audubon tree program was postponed. Prior to the meeting AB indicated her presentation is in part about replanting trees along streets. She will be providing species and planting recommendations. RJ indicated this is a sensitive topic in Audubon and the eventual desired endpoint is not to have a shade tree commission that regulates things but rather a protocol that can be utilized as needed.
2. EQ reported on the status of the Salem Oak which is doing fine. The barrel will be kept in its current location. Ongoing discussions of the final Salem Oak location in Audubon Family Park (AFP) have included considering a position closer to the Shed (instead of the previously proposed place towards the Memorial Garden). Further location evaluation is to be done. The Salem Oak will be protected by temporary fencing when it is planted in its selected final location. This will prevent damage from accidental contact but will be done in a manner that does not impede tree growth and allows for future expansion.
3. Discussion on creation of Monarch Waystations/butterfly gardens was initiated by JM. This discussion included considering the creation of multiple 10' x 10' locations. Initial start-up funding would likely come from the annual funds the Borough allocates to Sustainable Audubon (SA). The bulk of the funding would hopefully come from a National Fish and Wildlife Federation (NFWF) grant or alternative sources. That money would finance the bulk of the construction that is anticipated to occur following grant approval. SP will take the lead on applying for the NFWF grant. EQ will investigate potential waystation/garden locations to include the SA rain gardens, Memorial Grove, "Monkey Island", and the Victory Garden. Plant species selection and preferred planting method are still to be determined.
4. American Elm propagation was brought up, but the main discussion will be continued after additional information is provided by AB.
5. JM reported that the Third Friday (May 20, 2022) event went well. Additional questions and answers for the recycling game are to be considered. Interest in obtaining rain barrels is one of the things that came out of the Third Friday event.

Discussion of potential rain barrel distribution strategies followed. Resale by SA; SA facilitation of procurement; SA providing only rain barrel source information; and SA

raffling off a rain barrel were all talked about. Initial large and potentially at-risk outlay of funds by SA to directly obtain a number of the rain barrels poses a major concern. JM is to confirm interest by Third Friday attendees who indicated they were willing to purchase a rain barrel.

6. Walmart grant was discussed including previous difficulties. Recycling, shredding, and education outreach were topics that likely should be emphasized when SA applies for the grant. TS will investigate this further after obtaining the previous unsuccessful grant application.
7. Prior to the meeting Dani Ingves (DI) provided information on the shredding event. The shredding event will be held Saturday, September 10, 2022, from 9:00 to 12:00 in the Audubon Municipal Building parking lot. Haddon Heights will be a co-participant. SP is generating a flyer to advertise the event.
8. Arts and culture update postponed.
9. AG - TREX recycling update. 90 lbs. of plastic was collected last month which is the start of the new collection period. 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.
10. RJ indicated no new information on Community Energy Plan Grant proposal status. RJ has made contact with a potential energy consultant candidate contingent on the grant being approved in the future. RJ will provide grant award date information
11. Prior to the meeting DI indicated there was no progress on the insurance required training.
12. Atlantic Audubon Society (AAS) participation discussed. SP is investigating the nature of potential future joint activities.
13. Plant (bulbs) reuse program put on hold.
14. EQ discussed the need for maintenance at the Green Wave Park (GWP) rain garden as well as an issue with an alleged homeless occupant. Work party (to include EQ, CH, AG, JM, and TS) agreed to for 6:30 pm, Sunday, June 5, 2020. TS to arrange access.
15. Sale of snacks on August 11, 2022 Audubon Recreation Center Movie Night with the purpose of generating funds for SA was discussed. CH and AG will cover the event for SA.

16. In a response to a RJ inquiry, JM will be the primary SA representative to REACH. First meeting is Monday, June 6, 2022.
17. TS introduced a discussion on the desirability of increasing participation by young people in SA. Following a brief discussion, AG volunteered to speak to Matt Webb about options to expand on the current levels.
18. National Night Out is August 2, 2022. The plan is to do the same as was done last year with SA overseeing the usual table activities.
19. Third Friday (June 17, 2022) volunteers requested. Coverage is to include TS and SP.
20. ST5 update provided by RJ. Still being worked on by DI.
21. Date of next meeting was discussed. An attendance optional meeting was agreed to for Wednesday, July 13, 2022 at 7:00 pm in the Audubon Senior Center. As needed topics will be covered. Please note this meeting is proposed for the second Wednesday in July.
22. Review of tasks to be done from this meeting:
 - a. SP to work on NFWF grant application.
 - b. EQ to investigate potential butterfly garden locations
 - c. JM to confirm interest in rain barrel procurement.
 - d. TS to work on Walmart grant application.
 - e. SP to finalize the shredding event flyer.
 - f. RJ to provide Community Energy Plan Grant award date.
 - g. SP to coordinate with the AAS on future joint activities.
 - h. TS to arrange access to GWP rain garden via North Merchant Street gate.
 - i. CH and AG to cover Movie Night snack sale for SA.
 - j. JM on behalf of SA to attend upcoming quarterly REACH meeting.
 - k. AG to speak to Matt Webb about increasing high school student representation in SA.
 - l. DI to provide current ST5 status.