

Sustainable Audubon Meeting Summary for August 3, 2022

Attendees: Aimee Bentley (AB); Cheryl Hauske (CH); Rob Jakubowski (RJ); Laura Kelly (LK); Jeanne Mugler (JM); Agatha Nagas (AN); Sandy Perchetti (SP); Elizabeth Quinn (EQ); Terry Sugihara (TS); and Stephen Wilson (SW).

1. JM - Review of National Night Out (August 2, 2022): Modification of the recycling game to target younger participants was discussed. Incorporating aspects of the recycling demonstration into the game worked well and will be continued at similar future events
2. CH– Mum/plant sale discussion: The mum sale has an order deadline of September 7, 2022 with plant pick up on September 23, 2022. Order placement and plant pick up is at JM's home (220 W. Pine St., Audubon NJ). Payment by check or Venmo. SP created a flyer/order form. News of the sale is being circulated via email and social media by JM. EQ suggested posting the order form at the Post Office. RJ suggested reaching out to the Senior Center. Order form/flyer distribution by everyone is encouraged as time is short. Any funds generated will go into the Sustainable Audubon (SA) general account.
3. TS/JM/EQ - Butterfly and bee garden approach discussion: After an exchange of thoughts, it is proposed that SA create a single garden approximately 100 square feet in size. Construction of additional gardens is to be considered in the future. Seeds and transplants will be used to vegetate the garden. Plant survival will determine the need for any additional actions in the Spring. Stone border, stakes, flagging, and/or fencing will be used to demarcate and protect the garden from damage. The garden will be located in the Audubon Family Park near the Shed to make construction and maintenance activities easier. The Boy Scouts and the Audubon High School Environmental Club have volunteered to provide support. The proposed construction start date is September 17, 2022. The annual SA funding from the Borough will underwrite the bulk of the needed purchasing. TS to begin purchasing materials needed. TS will schedule a Dig Safe survey to see if the proposed area has utility line concerns. EQ, JM, and TS are to finalize the garden location. The Borough walkway project may cause garden to be repositioned. RJ will try to provide to SA the walkway plans if available. This garden will be a test bed for using this conceptual approach and also serve as a demonstration for future gardens by SA and others.
4. The first phase of this effort will involve garden construction by SA. The second phase will involve sponsored garden construction where construction and maintenance are the primary responsibilities of another entity. The Victory Garden project being run by Matt Webb is an example of this.

Details on SA support to the Victory Garden location still need to be determined (TS/AG to inquire). Also, need to confirm people in the working party for September 17th.

AN informed SA of a funding opportunity for pollinator gardens provided by the Xerces Society, Burlington County South Conservation District. SP is to follow up on this. AN also provided a potential point of contact through her for the Pinelands Nursery.

5. AB/EQ – Salem Oak discussion: AB recommended that the Salem Oak be planted in the fall in the center of a 6 foot circle that had been cleared and excavated to a maximum 6 inch depth (estimated to be below the root ball). A thin mulch layer will be placed on top. The oak will be protected at the minimum by a surrounding metal fence to demarcate and protect from mowing or weed whacking injury. Border stone is also to be considered. General location agreed to but will be fixed by EQ, JM, and TS. In addition, the final location will take into account the Borough's walkway plans.
6. TS/EQ – Red maple tree replacement discussion: Dead red maple to be removed. Planned replacement location potentially interferes with the Salem Oak planting and is therefore no longer suitable. The replacement red maple tree will have to be eliminated or a different planting location found. EQ, JM, and TS will determine a potential location. Protection from mowing or weed whacking activity to be considered for both the existing and proposed red maple tree plantings.
7. AB/TS/RJ – Discuss the development of tree replacement guidance for Borough use: The various issues and concerns were presented and discussed first. It was decided AB will develop draft guidance for replacing trees or the planting of new trees in those areas where there is no objection to do so by the residents. This will typically apply to the public areas bordering the street curbs and/or sidewalks, but not private property. Pertinent factors to consider, planting instructions, and the listing of suitable tree species for use will be included in the guidance.
8. TS/RJ – Walmart grant discussion (proposal of recycling education focus): Grant application cannot proceed given both the issues with the ST5 and the non-profit name change requests to the State and Federal IRS having not been resolved. RJ will look into the ST5 status particularly since the expected processing time has been exceeded. Similarly, RJ will contact Congressman Norcross' staff to see if the Federal IRS processing of the request can be facilitated and will ask Dani Ingves (DI) about the status of the name change request to the State and the possibilities to facilitate resolution.
9. JM – Shredding Event update: Saturday, September 10, 2022 starting at 9:00 am in the Audubon Municipal Building parking lot. Haddon Heights is also participating.
10. JM/AG – Trex bench/plastic bag recycling update and bench placement: Installation at the Memorial Garden of the Trex bench being stored in the Shed was discussed. RJ to remind DI of the desire to proceed with installation (currently awaiting DPW availability), particularly since another Trex bench is expected to arrive shortly. While that next bench was to go to the Recreation Center, it will now go to SA for placement near the Shed. This is because the Recreation Center has already been using both of SA's benches. Plastic recycling collection for May was 90 lbs. with June at 50 lbs.

11. JM – Third Friday update: Next Third Friday is August 19, 2022. Volunteers are needed.
12. TS/AG/JM - Future student representation/participation: Topic was tabled until the next meeting.
13. Other/new business:
 - a. Energy grant: RJ indicated the grant was awarded and that the \$10,000.00 will go towards an energy plan development by a consultant. Consultant has yet to be selected.
 - b. Movie Night: SA will be selling snacks August 11, 2022. CH and Ann Gillespie (AG) will oversee this. RJ suggested contacting previous movie night folks for additional information and advice on the best way to proceed.
 - c. Bike rack map: RJ asked that this information be circulated once provided.
 - d. Walking tour was discussed as a future activity.
 - e. American Elm propagation: AB is looking into this and has collected seeds to try propagation. She indicated propagation by stem cuttings may be a more successful method to try. She will report on any progress.
 - f. Pinterest: It was suggested that Meatless Monday be posted.
14. Date of next meeting is 7:00 Wednesday, September 7, 2022.
15. Tasks to be done from this meeting:
 - a. TS to begin purchasing materials needed for September 17th.
 - b. TS to request DigSafe survey for the area near the Shed.
 - c. EQ/JM/TS to finalize butterfly garden location.
 - d. RJ to provide map of Borough's proposed walkway Audubon Family Park project.
 - e. TS/AG to coordinate with Matt Webb on Victory Garden.
 - f. JM to coordinate on availability of volunteers (including SA) for September 17th.
 - g. SP to follow up on Xerces Society grant.
 - h. EQ/JM/TS to finalize Salem Oak location.
 - i. EQ/JM/TS to propose new red maple location.
 - j. AB to develop a draft of tree guidance for eventual Borough use.
 - k. RJ to look into ST5 status and facilitate its processing.
 - l. RJ to contact Congressman Norcross staff regarding request to Federal IRS for name change /clarification regarding REACH/SA 501(c)(3) non-profit status.
 - m. RJ to contact DI about status of similar REACH/SA name change request to New Jersey Treasury.
 - n. RJ to reach out to DI on Trex bench installation.
 - o. ALL: Contact JM about Third Night Out availability.
 - p. CH and AG to coordinate with other groups on Movie Night.
 - q. LK to look into posting Meatless Monday on Pinterest.