

## Sustainable Audubon Meeting Summary for September 7, 2022

Attendees: Aimee Bentley (AB); Ann Gillespie (AG); Cheryl Hauske (CH); Rob Jakubowski (RJ); Jeanne Mugler (JM); Elizabeth Quinn (EQ); Terry Sugihara (TS)

1. CH– Mum/plant sale status: Sales will be closing today and the response has been promising. Pick up is Friday, September 23, 2022 from 12-6 pm at 220 West Pine Street, Audubon.
2. TS - Butterfly and bee garden status: Design plan for butterfly garden, Salem Oak, red maple replacement, and arborvitae move was circulated and will be implemented September 17, 2022. DigSafe report shows no issues with planned areas of disturbance. Assistance by Audubon Department of Public Works (DPW) will consist of moving the Salem Oak and border stone to the Shed area. All Sustainable Audubon (SA) planting efforts will focus on the Audubon Family Park and not include the Victory Garden since the Victory Garden schedule now calls for planting in the Spring. Volunteers including the High School students and Scouts will be emailed a reminder of the upcoming work. Purchasing of plants, seeds, and materials is ongoing. Donation of transplants for butterfly and bee garden was requested. Xerces grant application was not successful, but will be applied for again when future funding becomes available.
3. AB/EQ – Salem Oak status: Proposed plan was reviewed and found to be acceptable. This plan includes prepping a 6 foot diameter area which will be enclosed within a 3 foot high turkey wire fence and eventually a stone border. Salem Oak will likely be planted on the 17<sup>th</sup>. DPW will be transporting the tree to the Shed area.
4. TS/EQ – Red maple tree replacement status: Preparation of the new proposed area to be done September 17<sup>th</sup> if feasible, but transplanting of the actual red maple from the Green Wave Field area will definitely be done at a later date.
5. AB/RJ – Tree replacement related work:

AB provided a draft titled Shade Tree Guidance and dated July 25, 2022. TS commented that the requirement to plant a tree must be in a “curb strip wider than 4 feet with no overhead wires” might be too restrictive. AB to revisit the issue. SA members are to review the draft and provide additional comments directly to AB. AB provided the advice that the shade tree effort should first inventory the trees in Audubon (AB initially said the borough had less than a 20% canopy). AB is taking on this task. AB further suggested that eventually a survey of the community’s interest in shade tree planting should be done. AB recommended that the overall effort should start slow and build gradually. Also, to that end, the focus should be on planting young trees which would be easier to do and less costly. Group concurred with this approach.

RJ presented the concept of a four town (Haddonfield, Barrington, Haddon Heights, and Audubon paralleling the stormwater drainage study) application for funding from the 2023 Landscape Scale Restoration Process. This effort would hope to leverage multi-municipality participation to obtain a lower end amount of funding. Improvement of stormwater drainage, improving senior and lower-income portions of the towns, and a relatively limited population (less than 50,000) would be emphasized aspects of the proposal. Matching funds and approval by a State Forester of the plan would still remain requirements. Haddonfield had indicated that they may be able to facilitate the State Forester approval. RJ will reach out to other towns to move this forward.

6. TS/RJ – Walmart grant status: RJ indicated the ST5 situation still needs to be resolved and that he is preparing a letter to Congressman Norcross’ office asking assistance with the IRS processing of the REACH name change.
7. TS – Shredding Event update: Joint Audubon and Haddon Heights shredding event will be held 9:00 to 12:00 on September 10, 2022 at the Audubon Municipal Building Parking Lot. AG, Dani Ingves (DI), Elle Ingves (EI), RJ, Sandy Perchetti (SP), EQ, and TS are scheduled to help. Haddon Heights will also provide a volunteer. EQ will be making Enter and Exit signs to facilitate traffic flow.
8. JM – Social media update: \$25.00 was spent advertising the mum sale. As a result, 3,294 people were reached with 229 engagements. SA has 611 followers on Facebook and 654 followers on Instagram. Our email list has 206 contacts.
9. AG – Trex bench/plastic bag recycling update and bench placement update: SA is 4 months into the 6 month collection period and has collected 270 lbs. of plastic for recycling. It is not likely that the 500 lbs. goal will be achieved. The suggestion was made to reach out to South Jersey Graphics to see if they have any recyclable plastic to contribute to the SA total. Two new benches were assembled and placed at the Memorial Garden and the Shed, respectively. Memorial Garden has requested an additional bench. Following a discussion, it was determined that making such a commitment at this time was premature.
10. JM – Third Friday update: Next Third Friday is September 16, 2022. Volunteers are being solicited, but this event conflicts somewhat with the September 17<sup>th</sup> work party.
11. RJ – Energy grant status: The Board of Public Utilities has released the funding. RJ is in the process of procuring an engineer to do the study. Completion within 18 months is required.
12. CH – Movie Night: The concept is a good one. \$34.00 collected.

13. Other/new business:

- a. AG and JM suggested a flyer be developed that provides recycling information.

14. Date of next meeting is 7:00 Wednesday, October 5, 2022

15. Tasks to be done from this meeting:

- a. JM to email reminder to September 17<sup>th</sup> work party participants.
- b. TS to obtain materials needed for September 17<sup>th</sup> work party.
- c. ALL to provide comments on Shade Tree Guidance draft to AB.
- d. AB to amend draft of Shade Tree Guidance in response to comments.
- e. AB to start tree inventory.
- f. RJ to coordinate with other towns on 2023 Landscape Scale Restoration Process effort.
- g. DI to facilitate ST5 resolution.
- h. RJ to facilitate IRS REACH name change.
- i. JM will ask Denyse Bieg to reach out to South Jersey Graphics regarding recyclable plastic.
- j. JM to ask SP to develop flyer for community outreach regarding what can be recycled.