

Sustainable Audubon Meeting Summary for October 5, 2022

Attendees: Aimee Bentley (AB); Ann Gillespie (AG); Cheryl Hauske (CH); Rob Jakubowski (RJ); Jeanne Mugler (JM); Sandy Perchetti (SP); Terry Sugihara (TS)

1. CH/JM– Mum/plant sale update: Mum sale was a success with over \$300 made. CH, JM, and Bob Mugler (BM) were commended for their efforts in making this happen. A Spring plant sale around Mother’s Day is planned.
2. JM/SP- Recycling flyer update: A plastic oriented TREX recycling flyer was produced by SP and was placed on the Sustainable Audubon (SA) social media sites by JM. Discussion of a general recycling flyer was initiated. Also discussed was the interim use of mum sale funds until other funding (such as the Walmart grant) becomes available to support the educational outreach on recycling issues.
3. TS - Butterfly and bee garden update: The butterfly and bee garden was constructed on September 17, 2022 in the agreed upon location and consists of a 5’ x 20’ area with a stone border. Various appropriate plants were put in place and are reported to be doing well. AB, AG, RJ, JM, SP, EQ, and TS were commended for their efforts on the 17th and thereafter. Also discussed was the development of a certificate of appreciation for the Scouts and their leaders who greatly assisted in the construction. SP will be in charge of creating the certificate. Additional ideas to thank the Scouts were solicited and will be discussed later. Appreciation had previously been expressed by email to David Taraschi (DT) and the Department of Public Works for moving the border stone and the Salem Oak to the area near the Shed. Subsequently, return to the DPW Yard of the excess stone was requested, but this has not yet occurred as of this meeting.
4. AB – Salem Oak update: The Salem Oak was transferred to its final location which is inside a fenced enclosure with an additional surrounding stone border to protect it. A removable panel to provide access through the fence was part of the fence construction. The Oak is reportedly doing well. DT has requested the return of the wooden barrel that previously held the Salem Oak.
5. TS – Red maple tree update: Time did not permit transplanting the red maple from Green Wave Park to its proposed location near the Shed. AB, AG, and TS will coordinate a move of the tree in the near future rather than wait for Spring. The usual access (via the North Merchant Street gate) to the red maple in Green Wave Park is currently blocked. An alternative route via the DPW Yard is being considered.
6. AB/RJ – Shade tree program update: AB revised the original draft based on comments received and the revised outline was distributed to the group. Approach will be to slowly develop the program. AB has begun work on the first phase which is an inventory of the trees in the Borough. A tree canopy program, itreetools.org, is the program AB is using.

The current inventory estimates (based on 1,300 data points) for the Borough are approximately 30% tree cover with 22.5% herbaceous cover and over 40% impervious.

Lack of support from Haddonfield, Barrington, and Haddon Heights ended the shade tree program grant effort. Audubon will continue to develop its own program but separate funding from Borough is unlikely due to budget constraints.

7. JM/TS – Shredding Event update: Shredding event was held Saturday, September 10, 2022 at the Audubon Municipal Parking lot and was a great success. Over 150 vehicles dropped off over 11,000 lbs. of paper for recycling. RJ requested we keep track of the numerous emails received that either supported or provided positive comments about the shredding event. Be advised Oaklyn is running a shredding event on October 15, 2022.
8. TS/RJ – Walmart grant update: Congressional aid was requested to help facilitate the IRS name change-over of SA to REACH for non-profit tax purposes. Resolving the ST-5 issues with New Jersey Treasury is also being worked on. Be advised that REACH is also trying to accomplish similar things which should help facilitate resolution for SA. Eventual use of a tax identification number for grant pursuit purposes by SA should simultaneously result; however, the time to accomplish this is unfortunately not likely in the near term. This means the Walmart grant funding source will not be available to support the recycling education program for now as SA cannot even apply for it at this time.
9. JM – Social media update: Meatless Monday and Costume Reuse postings went out. JM is working with Akiema Buchanan (Audubon Library Director) on improving the SA website.
10. AG – TREX bench/plastic bag recycling update: October 31, 2022, is the end of the TREX bench collection period and we are still 65 lbs. short of the goal. Included in that current total is 80 lbs. contributed by South Jersey Graphics. The current monthly rate of collection is less than 65 lbs. so the group agreed we should solicit as much as possible plastic recycling by the end of the month to qualify for a new bench. Social media will be the main vehicle to do this.
11. JM – Third Friday update: The next Third Friday is October 21, 2022. CH suggested as a theme that we support food banks by collecting bags they can use to distribute donated food in. Any food contributions made will be forwarded to Audubon Peer to Peer. CH, AG, and SP are among the volunteers covering the event for SA.
12. RJ – Energy grant update: Consultant selection has not been successful as the two responses received have required exceeding the maximum amount of funds available. Furthermore, the Audubon engineering firm declined to undertake the task. Still awaiting a response from one last candidate.

13. Other/new business:

- a. Request for reimbursement to SA by the Borough (\$300 annual funding) is being prepared by TS. CH was requested to provide debit card monthly statements to TS to facilitate this.
- b. RJ asked SA to consider participation in a website/ mailing list partnership under REACH that the Celebration Committee is looking into. Total cost of \$60 per month is to be split among 3 participating REACH groups. Mailing lists and postings are to remain distinct and under the control of the specific group. Initial response was generally positive but will require that additional details be provided and found acceptable.
- c. Calendar year event promotion mailing to go out in the Spring. RJ requested SA develop a listing of its events to submit for distribution sometime in early 2023.

14. Date of next meeting is 7:00 Wednesday, November 2, 2022

15. Tasks to be done from this meeting

- a. SP to create certificate of appreciation.
- b. Group to develop ideas for supporting the Scouts as a gesture of appreciation.
- c. TS to return barrel to DT.
- d. AB to propose red maple tree work schedule.
- e. TS to coordinate entrance for the red maple tree work.
- f. Group is to review revised shade tree program outline and provide comments directly to AB.
- g. AB to continue tree inventory work.
- h. JM to archive shredding event support emails.
- i. RJ to pursue name change and ST5 issue resolution.
- j. JM to post on social media an outreach to maximize plastic recycling donations by the end of the month for the TREX bench program.
- k. JM to post on social media the bag collection effort for the upcoming Third Friday.
- l. RJ to follow up with last energy consultant.
- m. CH to provide TS with copies of debit card monthly statements.
- n. TS to request reimbursement to SA from Borough against annual funding amount.
- o. Group is to develop list of 2023 events for Spring mailing.