

## Sustainable Audubon Meeting Summary for November 2, 2022

Attendees: Aimee Bentley (AB); Cheryl Hauske (CH); Jeanne Mugler (JM); Elizabeth Quinn (EQ); Terry Sugihara (TS)

### 1. TS/JM – Rain Garden and Butterfly Garden update:

How to best recognize the contributions made by Scouts and their leaders in constructing the butterfly garden was discussed. Presentation of a certificate was determined to be the appropriate action in light of the prior acknowledgement of the Scouts' participation in the Retrospect October 14, 2022 article. JM will speak to Sandy Perchetti (SP) about modifying the certificate to emphasize both the roles of the leaders as well as the Scouts.

Vandalism at the garden locations was discussed. The vandalism included broken windows, broken overhangs; destroyed brochure holders (at both gardens); evidence of attempted break in; evidence of alcoholic beverage consumption; and increased presence of trash. TS will follow up with the Audubon Police Department as JM has not heard back from her outreach to Commissioner Lee (Public Safety). Work party to perform repairs as well as continue the garden construction. This will occur Friday, November 18, 2022 (weather permitting). AB, Bob Mugler (BM), and TS will participate.

### 2. TS – Salem Oak update: The wooden barrel that previously held the Salem Oak is currently being repaired by TS and will be delivered to David Taraschi (DT) at the trailer in the Department of Public Works yard when done. TS to contact Rob Jakubowski (RJ) about the status of the Salem Oak sign.

### 3. TS/AB – Red maple tree update: A red maple was transplanted from Green Wave Park to its proposed location near the Shed by AB and TS. Stone border still needs to be completed.

### 4. AB/EQ – Shade Tree program update:

AB's draft survey form and the proposed outreach by EQ to poll her neighbors regarding planting trees were discussed. EQ's letter will be modified to reflect that we are gauging the "interest" (no firm commitment at this time) in having a tree planted in a resident's curb/sidewalk strip. Letter to be coordinated among EQ, AB, and JM regarding content. EQ's neighbor outreach along Dewey Parker Avenue will be a test run of the conceptual approach. AB also has a list of potential candidate residents in the Princeton Avenue area that can be approached at some point. The desire is to finalize an approach before Spring 2023.

Coordination with DT will be needed regarding this program prior to proceeding. AB to make initial approach to DT on this topic.

Still trying for funding from NJ Tree Foundation which requires a "shovel ready" program for a minimum of 20 trees. AB to continue pursuit of funding.

Presentation of this program is desired at Sustainable Audubon (SA) meetings and events in the Spring of 2023 if not sooner. AB to start presentation development.

AB has continued the plant coverage inventory work using the i-Tree Tools Canopy program. Current figures show 27.4% coverage by trees and shrubs; 23.4% coverage by grass and herbaceous species; and the remainder being impervious, buildings, roads, etc.

5. TS – Discussion of ST5 and REACH name change status tabled until the next meeting as RJ and Dani Ingves (DI) were not present.

6. JM – Social media update:

The proposal to use Squarespace and Mailchimp from the recent REACH meeting was discussed. It was recognized that there was overlap with current SA email, WordPress website and social media efforts. It was also agreed that the ability of SA to independently communicate and to separately maintain SA centric mailing lists (distinct from REACH) is desirable. JM is to obtain additional information to clarify what SA's role in REACH is and what are the future impacts of REACH on SA operations. JM will then report her findings to the full SA group for discussion.

7. JM/CH/AG – Trex bench/plastic bag recycling update:

Ann Gillespie (AG) indicated 730 lbs. of plastic had been collected and that SA qualifies for a new Trex bench. Collection for the next period has begun as of November 1, 2022. TS picked up an additional load of plastic for recycling from Edmund Optics. The plastic is being temporarily stored in the Shed. DI will arrange for pick up of the plastic from the Shed by Department of Public Works (DPW) for subsequent weighing and transfer.

Following discussion, it was agreed that SA would facilitate the transfer of any and all plastic recycling sources (including commercial) into the Trex program provided it was logistically feasible. Information on potential plastic donations should be routed through JM, CH, and/or AG.

8. CH/JM – Third Friday update: 40 polypropylene shopping bags were collected and given to Audubon Peer to Peer Aid. Collection stations for future bag donations will be set up at JM's house and at SP's house. JM to oversee this effort.
9. TS – Energy grant update: Topic was tabled to the next meeting as RJ was not present.
10. TS – Reimbursement from Borough supplied annual funding status: TS to provide needed information to DI to begin processing the reimbursement process. Compensation to EQ to be prioritized over SA.

11. ALL - Calendar year event promotion mailing to go out in the Spring: Listing of events still needed.
12. Other/new business:
  - a. JM has approached Michael Chisholm (MC), Director of Technology, Audubon Public School District for information on technology assistance. Under discussion is getting a student assigned to help SA. JM to continue outreach to MC.
13. Date of next meeting is 7:00 Wednesday, December 7, 2022
14. Tasks to be done from this meeting
  - a. JM to coordinate with SP on certificate of appreciation.
  - b. TS to outreach to Audubon Police Department regarding vandalism.
  - c. AB, BM, and TS work party on 11/18/2022.
  - d. TS to return Salem Oak barrel to DT.
  - e. TS to contact RJ regarding Salem Oak sign.
  - f. EQ, AB, and JM to finalize the wording of the EQ Shade Tree letter.
  - g. AB to continue pursuing Shade Tree program funding with NJ Trees.
  - h. AB to start coordination with DT on Shade Tree program.
  - i. AB to start developing Shade Tree presentation.
  - j. JM to clarify SA/REACH relationship.
  - k. DI to initiate recycled plastic pick up from Shed by DPW.
  - l. ALL to notify JM/CH/AG of potential plastic recycling donations by commercial sources.
  - m. JM to coordinate with SP on the future approach of pier2pier bag donations.
  - n. TS to provide required information to DI regarding reimbursements from Borough funding.
  - o. ALL need to provide listing of 2023 events for calendar inclusion.
  - p. JM to contact MC about information technology support.