

Sustainable Audubon Meeting Summary for December 7, 2022

Attendees: Ann Gillespie (AG); Cheryl Hauske (CH); Rob Jakubowski (RJ); Jeanne Mugler (JM); Terry Sugihara (TS)

1. Rain Garden and Butterfly/Pollinator Garden update:
 - a. JM and Sandy Perchetti (SP) presented to the Scouts a certificate recognizing their help in building the gardens. They also presented the copy of the Retrospect and Audubon Library Line that mentioned their help in building the gardens.
 - b. TS expressed thanks for Bob Mugler (BM) winterizing the rain barrel watering system and repairing the broken window in the Shed. Potential for cost recovery for the window repair to be discussed with Dani Ingves (DI) by TS at RJ's suggestion.
 - c. TS reported the overhang still needs to be repaired and the replacement brochure holders still need to be constructed.
 - d. TS indicated garden costs and receipts were provided to DI and that she was working on the reimbursement.
 - e. We need to follow up on the Xerces grant status at the next meeting with SP.
2. Salem Oak update:
 - a. Wooden barrel repaired and returned to David Taraschi (DT).
 - b. Salem Oak sign was discussed. TS to provide previously circulated sign information to RJ who will then look into obtaining the sign.
3. Red maple tree update: Stone border around the red maple (that was transplanted from Green Wave Park) completed by Aimee Bentley (AB) and TS.
4. Discussion of the Christmas Tree Decorating Campaign occurred. Conclusion was that next year's effort would be organized differently. The SA tree was located at Red White & Brew and the ornaments were made from wine corks by team members TS & CH.
5. Shade Tree program was discussed despite the absence of Elizabeth Quinn (EQ) and AB:
 - a. The draft survey form produced by EQ and AB was reviewed and suggestions noted. TS to forward to EQ and AB the modified draft following JM's preparation of a version reflecting all the comments.
 - b. Plan to do a trial distribution along Dewey Parker Avenue as soon as possible was supported by the group.
 - c. Status of AB's coordination with DT on proposed survey effort needs to be ascertained. RJ indicated DT wants assurance the plantings have the support of the property owners involved. RJ also indicated the public works crew was willing to do the tree planting.
 - d. Discussion of funding opportunities for the Shade Tree Program was tabled to the next meeting due to the absence of AB.
 - e. Status of Shade Tree Program presentation by AB to be discussed at the next meeting.

6. REACH related discussion:
 - a. JM expressed the need for clarification of Sustainable Audubon (SA) role within REACH. It is expected that will occur at the next REACH meeting which is scheduled for January 2023.
 - b. Actions by DI on ST5 and REACH name change are continuing.

7. Social media update:
 - a. Tri County Sustainability interviewed Laura Carolfi (LC) regarding the Sustainable Audubon posts she creates for meatless Monday on Instagram and Facebook. The purpose of the interview was to encourage other teams to similarly post on social media sites using LC's successful efforts as a model. Way to go Laura!
 - b. Elle Ingves (EI) created a popular post on sustainable gift ideas for the holidays. Suggestions included giving plants (very environmentally friendly); making donations on behalf of people; purchasing from local, small businesses; and even regifting. EI's posts were shared by the My Fair Lady shop in Haddon Heights and received a lot of views. Congrats to Elle!
 - c. JM spoke to Michael Chisholm (MC), Director of Technology, Audubon Public School District. Unfortunately, he has not been able to find a student willing to assist with SA's WordPress website.

8. Trex bench/plastic bag recycling update:
 - a. AG reported 150 lbs. collected for the initial month of the 6-month collection period.
 - b. Transport to Acme (Audubon Crossings) of the plastic temporarily staged in the Shed will be done shortly by the Department of Public Works (DPW).
 - c. Future collections by DPW will continue as currently done.
 - d. Plastic pickup by SA from Edmund Optics (EO) will be directly dropped off at the Acme loading dock with weights to be reported to AG. This was coordinated by DI and DPW with the new Audubon Crossings Acme manager, John.
 - e. Friday regular plastic pickup has been established with EO. Additional pickup date and packaging of smaller bundles are being discussed.

9. JM reports collection of polypropylene shopping bags continues to have a good response. Bag donations to Audubon Peer to Peer Aid will continue but other food bank recipients are also to be added moving forward (CH).

10. Energy grant update provided by RJ:
 - a. Consultant has 18 months to make his report. This effort will be independent of SA.
 - b. Consultant report is not likely to impact potential SA activities so SA should not wait to develop proposals for how to proceed.

11. Listing of events for calendar year event promotional mailing. Tentative events include a March Shade Tree Program presentation by AB and a Camden County Certified Gardner's program in April. Audubon Day will be a major event on the calendar. Additional events need to be identified by the group.

12. Other/new business:
 - a. RJ presented funding opportunities via TerraCycle. RJ circulated information on potential waste streams that are eligible. SA members to review and determine if there is a viable alternative to pursue.
 - b. RJ indicated online training for liability insurance still needs to be accomplished, but SA should await further direction.

13. Date of next meeting is 7:00 Wednesday, January 4, 2022 at the Audubon Senior Citizen Center.

14. Tasks to be done from this meeting.
 - a. TS to discuss reimbursement of Shed window repair with DI.
 - b. BM to repair Shed overhang.
 - c. TS to build replacement brochure holders.
 - d. DI to complete reimbursement of garden costs from annual Borough provided funding.
 - e. SP to provide an update on Xerces grant opportunity.
 - f. TS to send Salem Oak sign information to RJ who will then look into obtaining it.
 - g. TS to forward suggested Dewey Parker survey letter revisions to EQ and AB for their evaluation. If they agree, subsequent distribution by EQ and AB can take place.
 - h. AB to report on shade tree program coordination with DT, funding status/opportunities, and presentation status.
 - i. ALL are tasked with providing additional event ideas for the calendar at the next meeting.
 - j. ALL are to review TerraCycle information provided by RJ, identify some preferred choices, and be prepared to discuss at the next meeting.