

Sustainable Audubon Meeting Summary for January 4, 2023

Attendees: Cheryl Hauske (CH); Rob Jakubowski (RJ); Jeanne Mugler (JM); Sandy Perchetti (SP); Elizabeth Quinn (EQ); Terry Sugihara (TS)

1. Rain Garden and Butterfly/Pollinator Garden update:
 - a. TS indicated overhang and brochure box repairs are still needed.
 - b. TS reported that requested reimbursements related to previous garden costs (being covered by borough provided funds to Sustainable Audubon (SA)) are being processed. A request for reimbursement for a Shed window repair is to be made at the next REACH meeting per Dani Ingves (DI).
 - c. SP is monitoring Xerces grant and others for application opportunities.
2. Salem Oak sign update – RJ is looking into procuring a sign.
3. Christmas Tree Decorating Campaign results:
 - a. RJ reported that the SA Christmas tree received the most votes for the GABA competition. Recognition is being worked on. The Cub Scouts won the REACH grant Christmas tree competition.
 - b. RJ indicated a future Christmas tree decorating event could be held in cooperation with Luke's Place.
 - c. JM and CH took down the SA Christmas tree that was at Red, White & Brew, and stored it in the Shed. RJ indicated that SA could use the current tree as SA sees fit in the future. Potential future SA endeavors with Red, White & Brew were briefly discussed.
4. Shade Tree program update:
 - a. EQ indicated the Dewey Parker Street Survey consisted of 20 letters and that there were 2 positive and 1 negative response received. This response level was viewed as a positive as survey returns are usually 10% or less. How to conduct future surveys was discussed. EQ is to reach out to Aimee Bentley (AB) regarding the potential for prioritizing future surveys based on her Borough tree inventory work. The use of the lack of trees and/or the presence of wider curb sidewalk areas might serve as a basis for targeting areas for future surveys. The consensus was that a major survey effort should be done around March 2023 if possible. Social media and the Audubon Library Line were also discussed as potential means to advertise the shade tree program more generally. While planting this growing season is desired, obtaining the necessary funding will also impact the actual planting time.
 - b. Formal coordination with David Taraschi (DT) by AB remains to be done. However, RJ has indicated that the Department of Public Works is willing to do the planting of the trees. The timeframe for DPW to do so remains unclear considering their existing workload and will impact the actual planting timeframe.
 - c. JM will be contacting AB regarding the specifics for a shade tree program presentation around March 2023.

- d. RJ is in discussions with Public Service Electric and Gas about their proposed substation construction and the ways to increase the related shade tree actions. The impact on the shade tree program remains to be determined.
5. REACH related items update – RJ indicated that the ST5 and REACH name change efforts status are unchanged. REACH meeting is scheduled for Monday, 1/9/2023 at 7:00 pm at the Recreation Center. It is hoped that details on these topics as well as the role SA will play in REACH will be provided at that time. JM and TS will attend.
6. Trex bench/plastic bag recycling update:
 - a. Ann Gillespie (AG) provided information that Department of Public Works (DPW), SA (via Edmund Optics), and Carl (from Mt. Ephraim) collected 190, 213, and 12 lbs., respectively for the period so far. The total is 415 lbs.
 - b. TS will continue Edmund Optics collections every Friday. CH is also a possible contingency option for collection as needed.
 - c. Options on future plastic recycling were discussed. JM will reach out to Oaklyn Green Team about a cooperative effort on plastic recycling.
7. Collection of polypropylene shopping bags update – CH reported bags are still needed by the food banks. Collections will be continued by JM and SP.
8. Listing of events for calendar year event promotional mailing:
 - a. SA will participate in Audubon Day, April 29, 2023.
 - b. CH is working on a Native Plant & Flower sale in connection with Powell's Greenhouses of Mickleton, NJ.
 - c. SP will be reaching out to Akiema Buchanan (AB) at the Audubon Library regarding a joint Lorax program for Earth Day, April 22, 2023.
 - d. A paper shredding event is proposed for the fall of 2023. TS will contact DI regarding the availability of Camden County grant support and any SA assistance required.
 - e. JM reported that a Certified Gardener presentation in combination with the Audubon Library is being worked on. Native plants will be the topic for the Spring 2023 event.
9. Community Energy Program:
 - a. RJ reported that ACT Engineers has begun an 18-month program to develop a comprehensive energy plan using the \$10,000 grant that the Borough was awarded. The goal is to align the Borough with the New Jersey Energy Master Plan and enable the Borough to identify ways to boost energy resilience, increase and enhance renewable energy use, and provide equitable access.
 - b. A task force will be formed to guide the development of the CEP. TS will be the SA representative.
10. Other/new business:

- a. TerraCycle opportunities discussed. RJ advocated for Solo cup recycling. Purchase of collection bags and how to employ them were discussed. Other options remain to be considered pending further review.
 - b. Potential for holding an Electronic Waste Day as a fund raiser was discussed. CH will outreach to Magnum Recycling.
11. The next meeting is 7:00 Wednesday, February 1, 2022 at the Audubon Senior Citizen Center.
12. Tasks to be done from this meeting:
- a. TS to forward receipt to DI for Shed window repair reimbursement request.
 - b. SP will continue to look for grant opportunities for garden support.
 - c. RJ will continue with Salem Oak sign procurement and report status.
 - d. EQ to reach out to AB about prioritizing areas for the shade tree program survey.
 - e. AB to coordinate with DT about the shade tree program.
 - f. JM to contact AB about the March 2023 shade tree program presentation.
 - g. AB to report on the status of the shade tree program presentation.
 - h. JM to report back to SA on REACH meeting.
 - i. JM to outreach to Oaklyn Green Team about plastic recycling cooperation.
 - j. CH to report on Mother's Day plant sale details and needed preparations.
 - k. SP to reach out to the Audubon Library and report on the potential for a joint Lorax theme program.
 - l. TS to contact DI on the availability of Camden County grant support for a Fall paper shredding event.
 - m. JM to report on Certified Gardener Native Plant presentation status.
 - n. RJ to further investigate the details regarding Solo cup recycling under the TerraCycle program.
 - o. RJ to discuss with DPW their position and ability to assist with Solo cup recycling.
 - p. CH to contact Magnum Recycling to find out the details for holding an electronic waste collection day.