

Sustainable Audubon Meeting Summary for February 1, 2023

Attendees: Ann Gillespie (AG); Rob Jakubowski (RJ); Jeanne Mugler (JM); Sandy Perchetti (SP); Terry Sugihara (TS)

1. Rain Garden and Butterfly/Pollinator Garden update: Replacement brochure boxes and overhang repair still need to be done. Reimbursement for the Shed window repair was processed. Grant application (Xerces) status is on hold until 2023 information is available. SP will monitor the grant information situation for Sustainable Audubon (SA).
2. Salem Oak sign update: “Original” sign from the State is no longer available. Dani Ingves (DI) is looking into an alternative one sign similar to the sign by the flag post in front of the Recreation Center. RJ will update SA on the progress of sign development.
3. Shade Tree program update:
 - a. Survey prioritization based on open space analysis indicates West Graisbury Avenue (from Atlantic Ave. to Wyoming) and Amherst Road (from Kings Highway to Pine Street) have wide curb strips and good curbs. Washington Terrace and Maple Avenue are potential sites, but the curb strips aren’t as wide, and the curb conditions are not the best.
 - b. The future survey approach was discussed, and it was decided to continue to distribute survey letters. West Graisbury Avenue (from Atlantic Ave. to Wyoming) and Amherst Road (from Kings Highway to Pine Street) will be the next areas targeted.
 - c. RJ suggested assistance distributing the survey letters may be possible using high school students because of their service hours requirement.
 - d. Formal coordination with David Taraschi (DT) on this project will be done by TS.
 - e. Shade tree program presentation is being scheduled for the end of March 2023. JM will coordinate with Aimee Bentley (AB) on a specific date as well as with DI for a Senior Citizen Center room reservation. Post-meeting it was determined March 30th is the preferred date.
 - f. Funding status update will await AB response. AB indicated there were two potential commercial sponsors for the shade tree program in addition to the Shovel Ready program associated with The NJ Tree Foundation. RJ also raised the possibility of obtaining funding for the shade tree program from Camden County as part of the Kings Highway construction project.
4. REACH related items update: The Celebration Committee announced Audubon Day is April 29th. They are planning a May 6th town-wide yard sale. The July 4th booklet will not be done this year because the cost and difficulty putting it together outweigh the perceived benefit. They are looking for volunteers to help with all the activities. The Recreation team is working on a summer program. The Summer Movie Nights will continue but with fewer movies. A REACH website is being created that will establish links to the member organizations. A logo for REACH is also under development.

5. Trex bench/plastic recycling update:
 - a. AG reported the current collection period total is 887 lbs. which is above the period quota of 500 lbs. already
 - b. JM outreached to the Oaklyn Green Team who has registered as a Trex recycler and has indicated they will take over the Refill Market in Haddon Township's plastic pick up.
 - c. The current Sustainable Audubon (SA) plastic collection plan will be continued. Edmund Optics (EO) is expected to provide the bulk of the future plastic recycling. The Trex bench SA quotas should be achieved easily for the foreseeable future given the current rates of recycling by EO. Department of Public Works (DPW) will continue their existing plastic collections.
6. Collection of polypropylene shopping bags continues. These clean, dry reusable bags can be dropped off at 220 W. Pine Street and 234 S. Davis Ave. The bags are being sent to Audubon Peer to Peer for food distribution.
7. Cheryl Hauske (CH) provided information about the Spring plant and flower sale. Order forms will be available April 1, 2023. Pick up is scheduled for May 12, 2023. Additional specifics are to be determined shortly and CH will provide updates.
8. Lorax kids (4th grade and under) program to be done in combination with Audubon Library (for Earth Day, April 22, 2023). Concurrent story time and activities sessions are planned to occur at the Audubon Senior Center. William Penn will fund a flyer for advertising the movie event. Additional details to follow and to be provided by SP.
9. Paper shredding event planning awaits grant details that are typically provided by Camden County in February. DI will advise when more information is available.
10. Details of the native plant and pollinator certified gardener presentation is still being determined. An April 2023 presentation is expected.
11. Community Energy Program (CEP) update:
 - a. Vlad Odarchenko (VO) of ACT Engineers is the lead contractor for the grant.
 - b. Community Energy Plan Task Force (CEPTF) has been created and is scheduled to have its first meeting on Monday, February 6, 2023.
 - c. Ella Ingves and TS are SA representatives on CEPTF.
12. TerraCycle update:
 - a. RJ has indicated the bag collection system is for all plastics and not just Solo cups.
 - b. RJ has begun discussion with DPW on potential collection options. RJ will continue the development of the concept with TerraCycle and DPW.
13. Electronic Waste Day: CH has approached Magnum Recycling and various options are currently being discussed. She will report on these options at the next meeting.

14. Other/new business:
 - a. TS started a discussion on the Newton Creek dredging project which is currently having permitting issues with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) and disagreements with the Camden County Soil Conservation District regarding its soil erosion control plan (Second Phase). The impact on Audubon is minimal at this time, but the events will be followed as a precaution for later phases which may be of greater concern to the borough.
 - b. RJ started a discussion regarding a public art committee whose purpose would be to create local art works on the streets provided they do not create a safety risk. Input was solicited for ideas and volunteers.
 - c. RJ suggested researching “disc” battery disposal followed by a community outreach if appropriate.

15. Date of next meeting is 7:00 Wednesday, March 1, 2023 at the Audubon Senior Citizen Center.

16. Tasks to be done from this meeting:
 - a. SP to monitor garden grant information availability.
 - b. RJ to follow up on Salem Oak sign progress.
 - c. Elizabeth Quinn (EQ) and AB are to oversee distribution of survey letters to the West Graisbury Avenue and Amherst Road target areas.
 - d. TS to coordinate with DT on shade tree program.
 - e. JM to coordinate with AB on shade tree presentation.
 - f. JM to obtain Audubon Senior Center room reservation from DI for shade tree presentation.
 - g. AB to provide updated shade tree program funding information to SA.
 - h. RJ to provide update if shade tree funding from Kings Highway project is possible.
 - i. JM to confirm Oaklyn Green Team recycles plastic at the Acme Market in Audubon.
 - j. CH to provide additional Mother’s Day plant sale details such as pickup location and times as well as ordering specifics.
 - k. SP to provide additional Lorax program specifics (such as timing).
 - l. DI to provide paper shredding information when it becomes available.
 - m. SP and JM are to firm up certified gardener native plant and pollinator presentation details.
 - n. RJ to further develop and provide updates on TerraCycle concept.
 - o. CH to provide specifics regarding electronic waste collection options.
 - p. TS to keep track of the Newton Creek dredging project situation.
 - q. ALL: Provide input and identify potential volunteers for the public art committee.
 - r. TS will research lithium and rechargeable battery recycling.