

EAC Minutes 3.3.21

In attendance: Robert Kline, Acting Chairperson, Donna Suevo, Marc Brier, Richard Cole, Brandon Simons – Villanova Rise.

Minutes of last meeting approved

Villanova RISE

- Going to conduct building audit, focusing on the golf course, the intent being that the maintenance building will be the flagship green building for the township.
- Concentrate on electrification (lighting refit) and on heat sources such as heat pumps.
- EAC is invited to join the audit, which is taking place next week. Jason will send the invitation.
- Still working on fleet conversion to electric/plug-in hybrid

Old Business

- Golf course planting is finished
- Flooding on Burnside and Whitehall
 - Kim Haymans-Geisler attended and asked a question “what is township doing about flooding” – EAC made leadership aware of the problem, they are in contact with PennDot - both are state roads, and will keep pressure on for a solution and draw in local representatives for assistance if necessary

New Business

Township open space

- How is it used? How is it maintained?
- Centennial Park - between Main and Marshall. Is mowing that entire area the best practice?
 - Alternatives to mowing include tree planting of native species and community garden, noting that a garden would need soil analysis
 - Should monitor new enlarged parking lot construction
 - On site visit to discuss options

PA American Water's Environmental Grant Program

- 2021 is due March 31, so agreed to work on 2022
- Check township properties when good weather
 - [Centennial Park](#)
 - [Jefferson Firehouse Recreation Site](#)
 - [Padden Park](#)
 - [Betzwood Park](#)
 - Van Ladeghem Property
 - Golf Course

Paddon Park

- How close does the township mow along riparian buffer along both sides of stream? Ask Marty/Jason to request maintenance does not mow so close to stream bank on both sides. Should residents that border stream be informed if this is done?
- If/when will the trail continue along stream thru private property to come out to Burnside Ave? In subsequent email Jonathan W. Dzedzy, Director of Parks and Recreation said that: : “The proposed trail in which I believe you’re referencing, was initiated by the Montgomery County Planning Commission as part of a Stony Creek/Saw Mill Run Greenway Study which they conducted years ago. The MCPC drafted a study exploring the opportunity of creating continuous greenway corridors along the Stony Creek and Saw Mill Run in Norristown and in portions of the adjacent municipalities of East Norriton and West Norriton Townships. The old Dorsky property was the private property looked at as a possible connection in that area you’re referring to. If my memory serves me correctly, this was done back in 2015/2016. But I haven’t heard anything more on the status of that plan since then.”

Riparian buffer at Norristown High School

- Jim Watters inquired of the school district why they were mowing the buffer as the plan for it stated that it should not be mowed. The district agreed to not mow it going forward.

REGI and RF 100

- Richard reminded us of his email detailing the RGGI, Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, and for the excellent templates that Narberth and Ambler created for RF 100 implementation. We agreed to look them over before April meeting.

Collection of Resident’s Organic Debris

- Resident Kim Haymans-Geisler asked if the EAC could look into an environmentally sound solution for residents to dispose of organic material that doesn’t fit the township branch collection requirement. Two ideas:
 - Use Soil Rich
 - Have township collect and deposit at the mulching area of the Norristown Farm Park

Next meeting April 7 at 7 p.m. Jason sent us an email with a recurring zoom link for upcoming meetings