Environmental Advisory Council Meeting
Unapproved Minutes February 20, 2025
Held in East Fallowfield Township Building

Attendees: Robert Deist, Jeanne Berlin, Teri Dickinson, Paul Brenner, Roger Mustalish, Jeff Burke, Amy Burke, Amy Troop
Absent: John Nielsen, Charles Reed,Tanner Burns, Katja DiRado

Meeting called to order at 6:30.

1. Motion made by RM to accept January 2025 minutes as written. PB seconded. Passed unanimously. A temporary change of meeting night to the second Wednesday of the month was discussed, because of JN 's Master Watershed Training. No one had any objections. This will be through May.
2. Lawn to Meadow Conversion: Converting to a meadow would first require a herbicide be applied to the entire area. TD has discussed the plan with the 7 members of East Fallowfield Park and Recreation Committee. The group voted 5-2 against moving forward with the conversion, and will be sending a letter to the BOS stating their decision. P&R would like an entirely different location. The township's cost to convert would be $1400 per acre, plus signage. The proposed site could overlap with plans for future park development. Maintenance, herbicide use, and expenses all entered into Park and Recreation's decision to recommend against the conversion. RM suggested tabling discussion of the meadow, since it does not align with P&R's strategic plan. Also, the legal document requires the township to agree to 20 years of maintenance. RM suggested that the EAC take a step back and not feel constricted by this particular grant deadline. JBe suggested that a better location might be at the new township building location, where the need for herbicides may be minimized because of the construction.
3. Residents Jeff and Amy Burke were introduced and shared their interest in joining the EAC. They also described their business, which involves the collection of plastics that are not included in the township's recycling (plastic bags, bottle caps) and making them into plastic lumber. TD wondered if East Fallowfield could set up a collection point for these items. JBu said that collecting the plastics is not a problem, but getting the finished product out to the public is their goal. EAC is not clear on the legalities of promoting a product or company on our Facebook page.
4. Stream Names: The application to name the stream alongside Misty Patch Road (Schist Creek) is ready to go, just waiting on a letter of support from the BOS. The stream name near Fairview Road will be applied for soon, and will hopefully be named Laurel Run. This was chosen because it is the historic site of a furnace of that name.
5. Litter Lifters: The cleanup of the Brandywine, as well as the next Litter Lifters event, are held around Earth Day. JBe will check on those dates.
6. Green Initiatives /Township Building: When going through line items at a recent meeting, the Building Committee voted down the acquisition of LEEDS certification for the new building. EAC members may need to attend a Building Committee meeting to discuss their reasoning. Meetings are held at 6:30 on the last Monday of the month.
7. Riparian Buffer: Stroud Water Research has begun prepping the site at East Fallowfield Park, for the installation of native trees- forming a riparian buffer for Dennis Run. The area has been cleared and flags have been installed for the planting of 223 trees, with tubes and stakes.
8. Salt Week: Stroud Salt Week Snapshot results are completed. The streams sampled in East Fallowfield showed good results, although RM pointed out that the lack of rain may have contributed to the favorable readings. He plans to retest the creek near his home, once the rain has rinsed the salt off the local roadways. On Wednesday there is a presentation by Stroud to review the results. 45-100 ppm is considered normal; all of our samples were in that range. The highest was Dennis Run (90 ppm) and the lowest was the creek near

Fairview (29 ppm). RM will write a post about EF Road Crew's great job of keeping our roads safe in poor weather, while still keeping the streams healthy.

9. Landfill: JN is organizing a tour of the landfill and is checking on interest. 'Zero Waste Landfill' grant money is available that could be used for tote bags or recycle containers. TD would like to see recycle containers made available in the park.
10. Old Business: TD will post information about proper recycling at the park kiosk. JB shared data (first two years and last two years) from the East Fallowfield Pond Study. RM discussed the EAC Facebook page. Questions have been added to requests to join, as well as some general rules. The next step is to advertise the EAC page- including on the Park and Rec's and EFCommunity's Facebook pages.
11. New Business: RM discussed opportunities for residents, including the upcoming Cornell Ornithology Backyard Bird Count. It requires 15 minutes of recording how many birds you see in one area. RM also talked about the (free) Merlin app, which identifies birds using their calls recorded on your phone. The National Wildlife Federation has certifications available for habitat refuges in resident's yards.

Motion to adjourn was made by PB. Seconded by RM. Meeting adjourned at 8:00.