

MEETING SUMMARY

Longswamp Township EAC Meeting
January 20, 2020 – 7:00 PM

Attendance: Kate Harms, Scott Swackhamer, Peter Saenger, Lee Ann Saenger, and Nicole Miller

Board Supervisor Representative: None

Absent:

Guests: Glen Cooper

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM by Ms. Harms.

I. General Information – Ms. Harms called the meeting to order.

Ms. Miller inquired about the assistance of the EAC for an Earth Day event for a local Daisy troop, in which her daughter is a member. Their desire is to have the troop members plant a flat of native plants in the rain garden. They would like to do it the weekend before Earth Day, on April 18th. Because of the age of the girls, it is necessary to keep the event short, and structured.

During the event, half of the girls would plant, while the other half would work on clean up of the park, then they would switch. Of the plantings, each girl would be able to take one home, as a way to instill an awareness of the environment. The points to teach the girls are a) to learn the history of Earth Day; b) environmental health; c) the benefits of cleaning up litter; and d) recycling.

Ms. Miller asked if the EAC would fund the plants; Ms. Harms indicated that she must do a budget check first. Mr. Saenger noted that a flat of plant plugs cost next to nothing. Mr. Saenger further noted that it would be helpful if they could clean up the leaf damage in the garden.

Mr. Swackhamer added that he felt this is a good age to implement thoughts on the environment, and he is in favor of this event. Mr. Cooper inquired as to the type of plants, wherein Mr. Saenger stated they would be perennials.

Because of Ms. Harms' son's membership in the Boy Scouts, Ms. Miller asked if they (the Boy Scouts) would like to help. Ms. Harms felt they would be willing to help, if more hands were needed to do it.

It was further noted that the rain garden should be prepped first, it has been nearly destroyed by leaves. Additionally, April 18th may be too early to plant, and Ms. Harms felt the event should be pushed back a week, to the 26th, for warmer weather.

Mr. Saenger offered that we should go to Kospia Farms, now, to order the plants we want, and that they may be willing to help us.

The types of plants that should be considered are as follows: Phlox (native only,) Blazing Star, Obedient Plant, Cone Flower, and Butterfly Weed.

Ms. Miller stated she would contact Kospia Farms, and order one flat, unless the Boy Scouts want to be involved; Ms. Harms indicated that they are booked a year ahead, and may not be available.

According to Ms. Harms, garbage bags for the clean up, and other items, may be given to us for free by contacting Penn Dot, "Keep America Beautiful."

The Earth Day event for the Daisy Troop only, not the public, will take place on April 25th, the rain date will be the 26th.

Mr. Saenger offered to share plant pamphlets with Ms. Miller, to give to the Daisy Troop, when they take their plant home.

Ms. Miller expressed her gratitude to the EAC for their willingness to assist with this event.

- II. New Member Status** – Ms. Harms shared that Joyce Marin was no longer the Board of Supervisors EAC representative. Further, to date, no one has contacted us to indicate the change, or share the name of the new representative. One of them is supposed to attend our meetings, but no one was here tonight.

Additionally, EAC member wise, we still need to fill the planning commission liaison.

Glen Cooper will now be a voting member in place of Nicole Miller, who needs to step down as a voting member, due to outside commitments. Mr. Swackhamer made a motion to approve the change; Ms. Harms seconded the motion; all were in favor.

Mr. Saenger noted that the Board of Supervisors needed to be asked if we could increase our voting space, so that we always have a quorum at meetings.

- III. Ordinances for Wood-fired Hydronic Heaters** – Mr. Cooper shared with the group copies of six (6) different ordinances from other townships, and the State, relative to wood-fired hydronic heaters. Mr. Cooper noted that there are State regulations on this subject, and if an individual called them with a complaint, they would investigate. Further, Mr. Will Brontz, from the State's DEP, is willing to come to talk with us about this subject.

Mr. Cooper enlightened the group with information on how the State was forced to change the regulations from their original, more stringent outline, and this one is less rigorous than what it should be; a number of municipalities have begun regulating their own, because the State regulations do not adequately cover the problems, ie., boundaries for them, stack height, etc.

A review of the ordinances was then held. Mr. Swackhammer questioned, that if Longswamp Township adopted a permit system for installation, would our zoning

office be responsible for it, and the inspections? Mr. Saenger offered that the Township could go with something that the DEP could enforce. Mr. Cooper noted that the DEP would come in and enforce something that falls within their guidelines, but not what we as a township has as an ordinance. Mr. Saenger stated that we need to present this to the Board of Supervisors, pushing for a permit, and get the word out. Mr. Swackhammer added that this ordinance is one, from an environmental perspective, that is needed. Ms. Harms stated that ours would need to be more strict than the DEPs. (A review of Bushkill Township's ordinance took place) Mr. Cooper suggested that we review, and familiarize ourselves with all of the materials he presented, before our next meeting, when the gentleman from the DEP would be here. Additionally, Mr. Swackhammer noted that we need to educate ourselves thoroughly, before we speak with the Board of Supervisors. Meanwhile, Mr. Cooper will contact Bushkill Township, to see if they would have done anything differently, etc., since they enacted the same.

On another note, Ms. Harms included a last item regarding the pond workshop, scheduled for 4/18/20, to be held at Muhlenberg College. This event will include speakers on pond structures, native plants, bird habitat, etc. Mr. Swackhammer added that the Conservation District has a lot of information on this subject. Mr. Saenger will obtain the room, and if there will be more than 50 attendees, he will speak to the aquatics professor at Muhlenberg, about being involved; Mr. Saenger then requested Ms. Harms to send him more details on what is needed.

IV. Adjournment - With no further business to discuss, Mr. Saenger, made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Harms, seconded the motion. Voice vote followed motion, all in favor. Motion approved.

Next meeting date: February 17, 2020, at 7:00 PM, in the Longswamp Township Board conference room.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kate Harms
Chairperson