

**DRAFT EAC Minutes**  
**Tuesday, March 28, 2023 @ 7:00 PM**

- **Present**

- **EAC:** Ms Garg, Mr. Kunz, Ms. Hilyard, Ms. Guererro, Mr. Meyers, Ms. Gensemer, Mr. Heisey, Mr. Cram
- **Public:** Charles Aquilina, Jean Sillup, Sue Arenschield, Todd Pohlig
- **BOS:** Susan Guerette
- **Mgmt:** Laurie Getz

- **Approve February 2022 Summary**

- minutes approved 7pm

- **Announcements**

- See Facebook [Schuylkill Township EAC | Facebook](#)
  - Ms. Gensemer provides short update.

- **Public Participation**

- None

- **General EAC 2023**

- Vote for Alternate: C. Aquilina
  - 7:01 Mr. Meyers makes motion. Ms. Hilyard seconds. Mr. Aquilina is approved.
- **EAC** to consider prior presenters (Doug Tallamy, Stich Kelly, Barb Elliot) for 2023 township resident educational seminars
  - Ms. Garg raises the question as to who we should get for either Phoenixville Country Club or other venue.
  - The timeframe (Q2, Q3 etc) is still undecided.

- **Reports/Updates for Ongoing Projects**

- Township vehicle purchase- **LG**
  - Ms. Getz describes vehicle potential township vehicle purchase needs: there are two vehicles to be replaced.
  - Vehicles are generally on a 5 year rotation
  - Ms. Guerette cites some mpg stats.
  - Vehicle specifics are discussed:
    - Police SUV interceptor 2020 to be replaced
      - township has quotes for a hybrid (2023) and non-hybrid
      - police chief wants non-hybrid since existing hybrid has issues
      - after some discussion, Mr. Meyers makes a motion, Ms. Gensemer seconds. Recommendation for hybrid is approved 7:20.
    - Replacement of the 2015 Ford Escape (Ms. Getz's vehicle)
      - Ms. Getz describes issues with her vehicle.
      - Mr. Meyers asks about CoStars and Ms. Getz describes what it is and how it's used.
      - Ms. Garg asks if CoStars only offers Fords. Not every dealer participates.
      - Ms. Getz describes the lack of hybrids on Costars and raises criteria of mpg vs emissions.
        - costs and emissions are similar; one has "start/stop" feature
      - Ms. Getz would prefer a hybrid.

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- o Mr. Meyers asks about Vehicle transition timeline and whether a resolution to commit to transitioning to EVs would be appropriate
  - Ms. Getz indicates she would prefer to see the whole plan before considering a vehicle transition plan.
- o Ms. Getz indicates openness to Level 2 chargers and an EV if any are available through CoStars, but wants EAC to do research on Level 2.
- o Ms. Getz wants all wheel drive and 4 doors.
- o Ms. Getz will wait an additional month for her vehicle while research on EV possibilities are explored.
- o Bee City USA – KH
  - Ms. Hilyard provides overview on Schuylkill being certified as a Bee City.
  - Ms. Hilyard will forward material to Ms. Gensemer to put on facebook.
- o Bird Town KH
  - Signs updates/photo
  - A photo op took place before meeting around 6:50pm commemorating Schuylkill Township becoming a Bee City.
  - Ms. Hilyard attended webinar about tree give-aways.
    - she provides an overview about various tree give-away programs for the township.
    - There is extended discussion about the possibility of having some kind of tree give-away associated with a township event or otherwise.
    - Ms. Hilyard also mentioned there is a Tree-City program.
    - Mr. Heisey notes that the deer resistant plant list is now on the township website and we should publicize the existence of the list.
- o Clean-up projects - EC
  - Mr. Cram provides an update on the status of the projects in terms of logistics and participants. Saturday April 22nd.
  - Litter cameras discussion (AG & EC)
    - no updates but Mr. Meyers asks about some grants for license plate readers and whether such funds could be used for litter cameras. Ms. Getz indicates that these grants were for very specific purposes.
    - there is some discussion of the abundance of alcohol containers in the context of litter and that surveillance could address drinking and driving as well as litter.
- o Clean Energy: JM
  - VPP Task Force / Clean Energy Future
    - Mr. Meyers states that task force continues to meet on the 2nd Thursday of each month and a grant extension is being pursued.
  - Schuylkill Township Energy Planning
    - Mr. Meyers notes the previous extended discussion of vehicles and defers additional topics for another time.
- o DCNR Lawn conservation program
  - The questions is raised as to when to meet with representative and Earl at Pickering Preserve and or Township building.
  - Clarification is needed as to whether the program includes municipalities?
  - Ms. Garg and Ms. Hilyard refer to conversation with Alyssa from DCNR
    - there is discussion about lawn vs meadow for conversion
    - the township property may qualify but probably not Pickering
    - Ms. Hilyard makes a distinction between meadows and forests

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- Mr. Cram looked at the program and he would be interested in weed management for Pickering Preserve. DCNR has written the invasive plant guide. Mr. Cram wants eyes on our properties to help prioritize addressing invasives.
- It's possible Alyssa could take a look at all township properties.
- Ms. Garg notes that this year's funding for the program is used up.
- Ms. Hilyard will try to get a meeting for late April or early May on a Friday.
- o Facebook **AG**
  - [Schuylkill Township EAC | Facebook](#)
  - (covered earlier)
- o Parks/Preserves
  - Pickering Preserve
    - Mow plan updates – EC/JM
      - o Mr. Cram says mow plan was sent out but would like to go over it with Nick.
      - o Mr. Garg asks about next mow date and Mr. Cram says later this month. Ms. Getz is uncertain about mow date as of yet since Nick isn't sure he has a plan. Mr. Cram wants to get together with Nick.
      - o There is some discussion as to how the plan has changed.
      - o Ms. Getz asks if EAC voted on mow plan; Mr. Cram says we can wait until the walkthrough.
      - o Mr. Meyers forwards current mow plan to Laurie.
    - Redtail (no discussion)
  - Valley Park **KG**
    - (8:20) Ms. Guerrero distributes a list of invasives with degree of change.
    - Redtail - Ms. Guererro doesn't think they have made a substantial impact on invasives.
    - Ms Getz asks about how % on list are calculated.
      - o there is some discussion about how much RedTail has been directed regarding invasives
    - Ms. Guerrero suggests a meeting at the park to review the invasives.
    - Ms. Getz indicates that if the EAC isn't happy with RedTail, another recommendation should be made.
    - Mr. Cram would like an organization to review and make recommendations.
    - Red Tail contract is up for renewal in June.
  - Tree Subcommittee **KG**
    - Free Tree Planting (Keystone 10M Program) event. Tentative dates 4/22 or 4/23
      - o Ms. Guerrero hasn't heard anything yet.
    - Tree Selection for planting at twp building and or parks
      - o Ms. Garg says she talked with Laurie and landscaper only addressing visible parts of township building.
      - o Ms. Garg says we might want to wait until DCNR indicates what can be done.
      - o Ms. Guerrero went to Colonial Gardens to determine what natives they have. They have Red Buds and a few others.
      - o The need to do something soon is discussed.
    - Engagement of tree health/disease consultant
      - o Ms. Guererro indicates need for an arborist to evaluate tree health.
      - o Mr. Meyers indicates that Jerry O'Dell provided a short list of tree companies.

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- o Ms. Guerrero asks to meet with some tree experts to establish the health of the trees.
- o Ms. Garg suggests reviewing trees during upcoming walkthrough.
- Engagement of service to remove habitat piles and smaller branches from along Valley Park Rd. Remove smaller dead trees. One proposal: \$1,200 for 3 people and 4 hours= \$100/person-hour
  - o there is extended discussion about Red Tail and associated tasks
- Request township to remove black tree shelters from red oak and red maples at VP
  - o Ms. Garg summarizes the issue associated with plastic tubes
  - o Ms. Guerrero weighs in as well.
  - o Ms. Getz says it will be addressed
- o Trails Committee- MG
  - Attended meeting for the Survey For Chester County Trails Master Plan
    - [Chester County Trails Master Plan \(arcgis.com\)](https://arcgis.com)
    - Ms. Garg says she went to the meeting by calling in.
      - o says it was a good meeting
      - o Ms. Garg sent a link with a map and trails
      - o a lot of attendees were from southern chester county
      - o Devault trail is still being planned for.
- o Treasurer's Report- TH
  - Susan Foster sends a statement at the end of every month.
  - Mr. Heisey says no expenses so far in 2023.
  - Mr. Heisey describes what budget is remaining.
  - Ms. Getz says plan early so there isn't leftover budget at the end of the year.
- **Developments**
  - o University of Valley Forge – AG
    - Ms. Gensemer says the buyer has backed out.
    - Ms. Getz says there is a new buyer.
  - o Reeves/Pohlig By-Right Development plan- SK
    - Review and vote on the updated EAC EIA Memo
    - Mr. Kunz says EAC should vote on EIA tonight.
      - a. he provides some explanations and clarifications within the EIA
      - b. Mr. Pohlig states that they are clarifying one matter associated with wetlands.
      - c. Mr. Kunz continues to summarize concerns.
      - d. he indicates that there hasn't been an acceptable EIA in the last 15 years but also there hasn't been a project as sensitive as Reeves.
      - e. Mr. Kunz states that he has made a series of revisions.
      - f. Ms. Garg makes motion to approve and Ms. Hilyard seconds; motion approved; will be sent to Laurie.
  - o Wawa
    - Ms. Getz says no updates other than upcoming meeting.
- **New/Other Business**
  - o Mr. Meyers asks Ms. Getz for clarification on Sunshine Act guidance as it relates to email etc.

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- o Ms. Getz will provide some additional guidance.
- o Ms. Getz says best way to avoid it is to not have a quorum when meeting outside EAC meetings at township building.
- o Mr. Kunz notes that a quorum is 4 of us.
- o Next meeting April 25, 7 PM

Meeting Adjournment takes place at 9:03PM