

Sustainable Audubon Meeting Summary for March 1, 2023

Attendees: Aimee Bentley (ABe); Denyse Bieg (DB); Akiema Buchanan (ABu); Cheryl Hauske (CH); Rob Jakubowski (RJ); Jeanne Mugler (JM); Sandy Perchetti (SP); Elizabeth Quinn (EQ); Regina Richards (RR); Terry Sugihara (TS)

1. Rain Garden and Butterfly/Pollinator Garden update:
 - a. Planning for Audubon Day, April 29, 2023. Sustainable Audubon (SA) will have its usual location in proximity to the Shed. In preparation, there will be two work party dates, Saturday, April 15 and Saturday, April 22, with work in the Audubon Family Park gardens being prioritized over the Green Wave Park rain garden (if necessary). Cleanup will primarily occur on April 15th. AB will coordinate with Magnolia Garden for mulch delivery. Mulch (approximately 2 cubic yards) will be delivered to the Shed prior to April 22nd and spread on April 22nd. Final preparations should also be completed (or in their final stages) for Audubon Day activities at this time. Volunteers are needed. Please email your availability for both dates as well as for Audubon Day. SP will check to see if Cedar Run Wildlife Refuge is willing to participate again.
 - b. Brochure holders, repairs to overhang, rain barrel system reconstruction, and assembling the Trex bench are still needed prior to Audubon Day.
2. Preparation of the Salem Oak sign is continuing under the direction of Dani Ingves (DI) and is expected to be ready for Audubon Day
3. Shade Tree program update:
 - a. Interest survey of West Graisbury Avenue (from Atlantic Ave. to Wyoming) and Amherst Road (from Kings Highway to Pine Street) still needs to be done (EQ and AB).
 - b. David Taraschi (DT) email indicated that the Department of Public Works (DPW) will support the planting effort but wants proper planting time, watering program, resident support, and appropriate species selection to be prioritized.
 - c. Shade Tree program presentation on March 30th was discussed. A PowerPoint presentation by AB will go over the benefits of shade trees and be followed by information about the canopy in Audubon relative to other locations. The initiative to plant shade trees will then be discussed with the aim of assessing the interest of the residents in participating in the program. This will in part be done through handouts given out at the presentation with which residents can indicate their willingness to participate in the program. The presentation itself will be advertised via SA social media as well as flyer distribution. Link to a virtual backpack was also discussed. JM will distribute flyers in the Merchant Street business district. TS will cover the strip

of stores on East Atlantic Avenue between Pine and Chestnut Streets. The use of the Senior Center big screen TV or the Library's light projector will need to be coordinated.

- d. Funding status update: AB indicated she is getting tree pricing information from multiple sources (Magnolia Gardens, Harmony Hill, and SMP in Williamstown). AB is also looking into companies willing to act as sponsors in addition to more traditional funding sources like NJ Tree Foundation. A general discussion followed on allowing advertising (via hang tags, signage, or yet to be determined means) to encourage sponsorship. The group agreed that doing so was acceptable.
4. Trex bench/plastic recycling update: Based on information from Ann Gillespie (AG) our February collection totaled 338 lbs. with 263 lbs. from Edmund Optics, 60 lbs. from Audubon DPW, and 15 lbs. from Mt. Ephraim. A general discussion about future collections occurred as well. The current collection period ends as of May and we have already qualified for a free Trex bench. Note also that there is a Trex bench awaiting assembly in the Shed.
5. Spring Flower Sale update done by CH. Flowers will be perennials and native species. Flyer is to be ready for review at the next SA meeting. Sale is still planned in May but with a date to be determined.
6. Lorax kids (4th grade and under) program update by SP:
 - a. Audubon Library tour on Tuesday, April 18th with a rain date of Thursday, April 20th. Free Lorax movie ticket passes are to be distributed to students on the tour.
 - b. Storytime for toddlers on Wednesday, April 19th.
 - c. Lorax movie outside the Audubon Recreation Center around 7:00 pm on Thursday, April 20th. Craft session at 6:00 pm. Movie is open to the public as well.
 - e. William Penn is sponsoring the movie and should be acknowledged in all advertising. It is believed the Audubon Library is handling all promotion of this series of events.
7. Paper shredding event update: DI indicated funding for the shredding event was expected to be provided. Grant information should be available shortly. We will likely partner with Haddon Heights for a fall event. The specific date is yet to be determined.
8. Native plant and pollinator certified gardener presentation update. Elizabeth Ackroyd is scheduled to speak at the Audubon Senior Center on April 19, 2023 at 7:00 pm. The Audubon Library will provide printed and informational materials for borrowing in support of this talk. Set up will start at 6:30 pm that evening. An advertising flyer and website information still need to be developed.

9. Community Energy Plan (CEP) update. A Zoom meeting was held by Vlad Odarchenko of ACT Engineering to kick off the program on Monday, February 6, 2023. The nature of the CEP effort was described. Participants were tasked with providing inventory information as well as their current energy related activities. The education and outreach was identified as a SA priority. TS will submit the solar energy handout as part of this initial inventory effort. April 25, 2023 is the next scheduled CEP Zoom meeting.
10. TerraCycle recycling effort is undergoing review by RJ at this time. RJ will update when appropriate.
11. Electronic Waste Day update: Magnum Recycling will be making a presentation at the next SA meeting that will allow for a discussion of potential future activities including holding an electronic waste event.
12. Battery recycling update: In response to a request by RJ that was supported by the entire group, TS circulated an informational brochure that identified battery recycling options. It was suggested that this might be the basis for a future outreach to the community on this topic.
13. Other/new business:
 - a. Havilland Avenue School is holding a Monarch Butterfly event on Friday, May 5, 2023 and wanted to know if SA wanted to participate. Further discussion probably is needed before reaching a decision.
 - b. TS has started to look into procuring a Walmart Community Grant. This was discussed and because of Walmart's emphasis on recycling and school related activities, RJ suggested that TS explore at the next REACH meeting if there is an interest of the educational elements present in jointly participating.
14. Date of next meeting is 7:00 Wednesday, April 5, 2023 at the Audubon Senior Citizen Center.
15. Tasks to be done from this meeting:
 - a. AB to coordinate mulch delivery with Magnolia Garden Center.
 - b. ALL are to indicate their availability to help with the Audubon Day work parties.
 - c. SP to contact Cedar Run Wildlife Refuge about Audubon Day participation.
 - d. TS and Bob Mugler (BM) need to address brochure holder, overhang repair, rain barrel installation, and Trex bench assembly.
 - e. DI to get update on Salem Oak sign completion.
 - f. EQ and AB are to oversee distribution of shade tree interest letters to the West Graisbury Avenue and Amherst Road target areas.
 - g. AB to oversee development of resident interest handout to be handed out at presentation.

- h. JM to put shade tree presentation information on social media and also look into information distribution via virtual backpacks.
- i. JM will distribute Shade Tree talk flyers in the Merchant Street business district.
- j. TS will distribute Shade Tree talk flyers on East Atlantic Avenue between Pine and Chestnut Streets.
- k. AB/JM/TS need to finalize how the Shade Tree PowerPoint presentation will be done (TV, Projector, Screen, Laptop, etc.).
- l. AB to update the group on tree pricing and sponsorships.
- m. RJ to provide update if shade tree funding from Kings Highway project is possible.
- n. CH to oversee development of the Spring Flower Sale flyer and provide additional details such as pickup location and times as well as ordering specifics.
- o. DI to provide paper shredding information when it becomes available.
- p. ALL need to provide input for setting shredding event date.
- q. JM to coordinate flyer and website information for certified gardener talk.
- r. TS will provide the solar energy handout in response to the CEP information request.
- s. CH to coordinate Magnum presentation.
- t. TS to start developing a battery recycling outreach to the community.
- u. TS to inquire if there is interest in participating with SA on applying for a Walmart Community Grant by any of the REACH elements.