

Sustainable Audubon Meeting Summary for April 5, 2023

Attendees: Aimee Bentley (AB); Jodi Clark (JC); Ann Gillespie (AG); Cheryl Hauske (CH); Diane Herbert (DH); Dani Ingves (DI); Ella Ingves (EI); Rob Jakubowski (RJ); John Martorano, Jr. (JMa); Jeanne Mugler (JM); Sandy Perchetti (SP); Rene Price (RP); Elizabeth Quinn (EQ); Regina Richards (RR); Terry Sugihara (TS)

1. JC and RC of the Greater Audubon Business Association (GABA) presented Sustainable Audubon (SA) with a check for \$100.00 for winning their Christmas Tree decorating contest.
2. Electronic Waste Event:
 - a. JMa gave an overview of Magnum Recycling LLC and electronic waste disposal in general.
 - b. JMa with 90 days notice is willing to participate in an electronic waste recycling event. He will provide a collection vehicle, packaging, and a small crew to process the material.
 - c. JMa is willing to do this at the same time as the October paper shredding event but requests that the electronic waste drop off precede the paper shredding drop off point.
 - d. JMa will allow the use of any Magnum Recycling website materials as part of the advertising for this event as well as educational outreach.
 - e. JMa will consider a donation to Sustainable Audubon in return for getting the electronic waste.
3. Rain Garden and Butterfly/Pollinator Garden Audubon Day update:
 - a. Work parties for Saturday, April 15 and Saturday, April 22 were discussed and volunteers requested.
 - b. The Audubon Family Park rain garden work is to be prioritized over the Green Wave Park rain garden work. Cleanup is planned primarily for April 15th with Shed cleanup and preparations for Audubon Day also done. Bob Mugler (BM) will set up the rain barrel system. The tilling of the butterfly/pollinator garden is tentatively planned.
 - c. Mulch delivery (approximately 2 cubic yards) will be delivered to the Shed prior to April 22nd and spread on April 22nd. Mulch and delivery are being donated by Magnolia Gardens and AB will coordinate.
 - d. Post-meeting Note – A cubic yard of topsoil to be purchased and delivered to the Shed prior to April 22nd as well as prior to the mulch delivery. The topsoil will be placed as needed in the butterfly/pollinator garden on April 22nd.
 - e. April 22nd will also be used to make final preparations for Audubon Day.
 - f. Cedar Run Wildlife Refuge participation at Audubon Day update – SP is still in the process of trying to arrange their attendance.
 - g. Construction of brochure holders; repairs to overhang; and assembling the Trex bench are tasks that still need to be done before Audubon Day.
4. Salem Oak sign status – DI indicated the sign is being completed and a ground level installation by the Department of Public Works (DPW) prior to Audubon Day is being arranged. Location of the sign is still being discussed.

5. Shade Tree program update:
 - a. The interest survey targeting West Graisbury Avenue (from Atlantic Ave. to Wyoming) and Amherst Road (from Kings Highway to Pine Street) was completed.
 - b. The March 30th Shade Tree program presentation entitled “Let’s Talk Trees” by AB was well attended and extremely well received.
 - c. Shade Tree program status was discussed. Currently, there is interest for tree placement in 15 locations. NJ Tree Foundation requires 20 shovel ready locations before they will try to find potential funding for putting in the trees. AB and EQ will be doing a site analysis to determine how many of the current 15 locations of interest are actually viable.
 - d. RJ reported that the earmark request associated with the shade tree program had been sent to Congressman Norcross and Senator Booker. The request was for \$60,000 to purchase 150 trees and planting related materials; rain and pollinator garden support; a mobile water tank; and a small cart to tow/carry the water tank. Senator Booker has agreed to endorse our request.
 - e. Sponsorships for funding the shade tree program are still under discussion. All potential funding sources are still being considered or researched.
 - f. The tree trimming associated with power lines that is being done by Nelson for PSE&G was briefly discussed.
6. Trex bench/plastic recycling update – AG reported that 380 lbs. had been collected in March (285 lbs. for Edmund Optics, 10 lbs. for Mt. Ephraim, and 85 lbs. for Audubon).
7. Sustainable Audubon Flower and Vegetable Sale update – CH reported that the flyers are out and have been posted and shared. April 19, 2023 is the due date for the orders. The pickup date is May 12, 2023 from 11:00 am to 6:00 pm at 220 W. Pine Street, Audubon.
8. Lorax kids (4th grade and under) program update:
 - a. Story time for Toddlers at Audubon Public Library on April 19th at 10:00 am.
 - b. Lorax movie showing at Audubon Senior Center on April 20th at 6:00 pm.
 - c. The public performing rights for the movie (\$500.00) as well as the advertising was paid for by the William Penn Bank.
9. Paper shredding event status/discussion:
 - a. Date of the event will either be Saturday, October 14th or 21st pending final arrangements with the paper shredding company. The timeframe should be 8:00 am to 12:00 pm.
 - b. Haddon Heights will be a co-participant.
 - c. This event will be combined with an electronic waste recycling event that Magnum Recycling will be supporting.
 - d. We need to maximize the promotion of this event. A particular selling point is the emphasis on secure destruction of both hard copy and electronic information with no risk of exposure that may potentially result from curbside disposal.

10. Native plant and pollinator presentation update – Elizabeth Ackroyd (EA), a Camden County Certified Gardener, will be presenting the topic: “How to Create a Backyard Habitat for Monarch Butterflies” on April 19th at 7:00 pm at the Audubon Senior Center.
11. Community Energy Plan (CEP) update:
 - a. The Audubon Community Energy Plan Task Force (ACEPTF) held its kick off meeting on Monday, February 6, 2023. Vlad Odarchenko (VO) of ACT Engineers presented an overview of the program and the approach for the development of a Community Energy Plan (CEP). Participants were tasked with collecting relevant information to essentially establish an inventory of what is currently known or has been done.
 - b. SA will be submitting its solar panel handout as indicative of the community outreach and education that SA hopes to incorporate into the CEP.
 - c. The next ACEPTF meeting is Tuesday, April 25, 2023.
12. Sustainable Jersey and PSE&G Energy Efficiency Initiative Program (SJ-PSE&G EEIP) effort status – Application for the grant was completed on time and chances are good to obtain \$2,500 to advance residential energy efficiency. There is an opportunity for additional funding dependent on availability. However, because economic status is also a major factor to be considered, obtaining this additional funding may prove to be more challenging.
13. Walmart Community Grant effort status – TS will inquire at the next REACH meeting whether there is interest in partnering with SA on a request for a small community grant dealing with recycling. Of particular interest is seeing if a local school would like to participate.
14. Haviland Avenue School Monarch Butterfly event for May 5th was discussed. AB volunteered to attend. Plant growing demonstration was suggested as a teaching tool. TS will purchase materials based on input from AB and others. Note that excess plant growing demonstration materials will be used as part of Audubon Day activities.
15. The date of the next meeting is 7:00 Wednesday, May 3, 2023 at the Audubon Senior Citizen Center.
16. Tasks to be done:
 - a. CH to coordinate with JMa on electronic waste event once DI finalizes the shredding event date.
 - b. EQ to oversee work parties.
 - c. AB to coordinate delivery of 2 cubic yards of double cut hardwood mulch from Magnolia Gardens to the Shed area prior to April 22nd.
 - d. TS to arrange for 1 cubic yard of topsoil to be delivered to the Shed area prior to April 22nd.
 - e. TS to construct and install brochure holders by Audubon Day.
 - f. BM to assemble Trex bench by Audubon Day.
 - g. SP to coordinate with Cedar Run Wildlife Center on demonstration for Audubon Day.

- h. AB and EQ to update site assessment effort for potential shade tree locations and report on the implications for NJ Tree funding.
- i. RJ to update SA on earmark effort.
- j. AB to update SA on sponsorship status regarding shade tree program.
- k. JM to coordinate with Oaklyn and AG on April plastic recycling credits.
- l. DI needs to finalize shredding event date (10/14 or 10/21).
- m. TS and JM to provide audiovisual support to “How to Create a Backyard Habitat for Monarch Butterflies” on April 19th.
- n. TS and JM to attend the next ACCEPTF meeting (April 25th).
- o. TS and RJ to report to SA on SJ-PSE&G EEIP grant status.
- p. TS to inquire about partnering on a Walmart Community Grant at the next REACH meeting.
- q. TS to purchase plant supplies for Haviland Avenue School Monarch Butterfly event.