

Sustainable Audubon Meeting Summary for August 2, 2023

Attendees: Stacey Behm (SB); Aimee Bentley (AB), Cheryl Hauske (CH); Chris Herz (CHe); Rob Jakubowski (RJ), Jeanne Mugler (JM); Darren Norgren (DN); Elizabeth Quinn (EQ); Regina Richards (RR); Terry Sugihara (TS)

1. Paper Shredding Event and Electronic Waste Recycling Event update:
 - a. The event is scheduled for Saturday, October 14, 2023 from 9 to 12 and is in cooperation with Haddon Heights. The event will take place at the Audubon Municipal Building parking lot.
 - b. CH has confirmed E-Waste arrangements with Magnum Recycling, John Martorano, Jr. (JMa)
 - c. Polar Recycling has been contracted to do paper shredding.
 - d. A flyer has been created, printed, and circulation begun.
 - e. Volunteers are being solicited. RJ will ask Haddon Heights for increased volunteer support.

2. Rain Gardens, Butterfly/Pollinator Garden, and Salem Oak update:
 - a. All the Audubon Family Park gardens are in good condition. Thanks go to EQ for her efforts in maintaining the gardens.
 - b. The mulch being stored in the Shed will be used for fall mulching of the Audubon Family Park gardens and plantings.
 - c. Following a discussion, wood chips from the Department of Public Works (DPW) yard will be used to mulch the Green Wave Park Rain Garden. TS will request that Dave Taraschi (DT) move at least 2 cubic yards of wood chips to an area adjacent to the rain garden to allow the wood chips to “age”.

3. Shade Tree program update:
 - a. AB has recently filed a grant application with NJ Tree Foundation. Hopefully Sustainable Audubon (SA) can be matched by NJ Tree Foundation with a grant source that will allow the Shade Tree Program to continue/expand.
 - b. AB has coordinated a donation of 20 trees and Gator Bags by Root 24, Inc. with Magnolia Garden Village providing the trees at cost. Different types of trees will be made available mid-October to be matched with the appropriate location requirements. Good work AB!
 - c. There will be additional expenses to include “rebar” to support the Gator Bags and protect the planted trees from damage as well as “tree tags” to acknowledge the Root 24 and Magnolia Garden Village donation.
 - d. Retrospect newspaper coverage is to be sought. The purpose will be to advertise the SA shade tree program as well as acknowledge the Root 24 and Magnolia Garden Village donations.
 - e. AB and EQ will continue to coordinate with the residents that are requesting trees in preparation for planting. TS will assist with the related Dig Safe requests.
 - f. TS to ask DT about DPW assistance in planting the trees.
 - g. AB brought up a program run by the company she works for, Huber. This program involves community assistance and is run yearly. The current application period ends

in August. The decision was to hold off on applying for the Huber grant for now because of the SA activity schedule currently being quite full.

4. Trex bench/plastic recycling update:
 - a. Ann Gillespie (AG) reported that for July the DPW collection was 90 lbs., and the Edmund Optics collection was 241 lbs. for a total of 331lbs.
 - b. AG also indicated the Trex bench earned for the preceding collection period is being stored in the Shed.
 - c. A discussion of where the new bench should be placed occurred. Memorial Grove was the leading candidate pending their willingness to accept it. AB volunteered that the Audubon Little League desired a bench. AB is to provide TS with contact information. They will be considered as a candidate to receive the next bench.
5. Community Energy Plan (CEP) update:
 - a. An in-person meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 10, 2023 from 6:00 to 7:30 at the Audubon Senior Center.
 - b. TS made an email suggestion to Vlad Odarchenko (VO) (the ACT consultant leading the CEP development) that there is a need to begin to transition to an approach that begins to generate a product as opposed to the current phase that is mostly an information gathering/distribution effort.
6. Sustainable Jersey and PSE&G Energy Efficiency Partnership Program (SJ-PSE&G EEPP) grant update:
 - a. The decision process regarding grant participation was reviewed to include the initial reservations raised by SA; responses to those reservations by Leanne McGowan (LM); and explaining the ultimate decision for SA to continue with grant participation.
 - b. How to proceed with the grant funds in terms of strategy, effort, and potential expenditures was discussed. Direct outreach at community events and other SA functions will be emphasized. Options available under SJ-PSE&G EEPP are to be presented to the community via handouts. Social media outreach will also be done. A door hanger campaign is to be evaluated and discussed. Potential expenditures under consideration include folding tables, WordPress subscription, copying, pamphlet printing, door hangers printing, banners, etc.
7. Third Friday and National Night Out update:
 - a. JM reported on National Night Out activities. JM, RR, CH and TS participated.
 - b. Third Friday volunteers were solicited for the August 18, 2023 event.
8. Old business/New business:
 - a. EQ reviewed the cleanup she has done on the Lions Club gazebo garden. Maintenance of this garden will be continued by SA. The Lions Club has already given SA permission to do so. The Lions Club has also offered to cover incurred financial costs for maintaining and improving the gazebo garden. The Lions Club approved SA posting signage that states SA is maintaining the garden. Also

- discussed was the maintenance of two additional nearby gardens. It was agreed that SA would undertake the continued maintenance of these gardens as well. EQ will identify the plants to be saved or removed from the gardens.
- b. At the request of the Lions Club, TS will describe at their September meeting what SA does and is proposing to do.
 - c. Partnerships are to be pursued with the Lions Club as well as the Audubon Public Library as part of the SJ-PSE&G EEPP.
 - d. EQ will propose a schedule for doing maintenance work at all the gardens that SA is involved with. This will include fall mulching plans. Volunteers will be solicited by email.
 - e. AB reviewed her upcoming support of the shade tree program being undertaken by the Audubon School Board. This activity is likely independent of SA.
 - f. The upcoming mum sale (September 22, 2023 pickup) was discussed. Ordering period will end September 9, 2023. Order forms/handouts are being prepared.
 - g. A discussion was held on how to more effectively advertise our events and programs. Printed matter format seems to be the most effective, but it was recognized that people rely on different forms of communication which is going to make effective outreach to all parties challenging.
 - h. Discussion and updates on the topics of REACH; ST5 status; Earmark status; and potential electric vehicle charge station plans in conjunction with adjacent towns were postponed until the next meeting.
9. The date of the next meeting is 7:00 Wednesday, September 6, 2023 at the Audubon Senior Citizen Center.
10. To do list:
- a. RJ to ask Haddon Heights for additional volunteers for the Paper Shredding E-Waste event.
 - b. TS to initiate request for Retrospect coverage of the shade tree program as well as initiate “tree tag” development.
 - c. AB and EQ to coordinate with shade tree program participants on preparations for planting.
 - d. TS to provide support for Dig Safe request as needed by AB and EQ.
 - e. TS to ask DT to move wood chips to Green Wave Park Rain Garden.
 - f. TS to ask DT about DPW assistance with planting the 20 shade trees.
 - g. CH to outreach to Memorial Grove about taking the new Trex bench.
 - h. AB to provide TS with contact information for the Audubon Little League.
 - i. EQ to continue her work on the Lions Club related gardens.
 - j. TS to speak to the Lions Club in September.
 - k. TS to inquire about SA partnering with the Lions Club.
 - l. EQ to propose a work schedule for maintenance of all SA gardens.
 - m. CH to continue working on preparations for the mum sale.
 - n. JM to inquire about SA partnering with the Audubon Public Library.