

## Sustainable Audubon Meeting Summary for October 4, 2023

Attendees: Stacey Behm (SB), Aimee Bentley (AB), Ann Gillespie (AG), Cheryl Hauske (CH), Diane Herbert (DH), Chris Herz (CH2), Jeanne Mugler (JM), Darren Norgrum (DN), Sandy Perchetti (SP), Elizabeth Quinn (EQ), Regina Richards (RR), and Terry Sugihara (TS),

1. Paper Shredding and Electronic Waste Recycling Event update (JM/CH) (Post Meeting Note): A successful event was held on October 14, 2023 with thanks extended to all who volunteered. Over 9,000 lbs. of paper were recycled as well as a very large amount of e-waste, 5,324 lbs. The shredding event next year is scheduled for Saturday, October 19, 2024. We will need to emphasize that only residential sources of paper from participating municipalities are eligible for shredding (no commercial disposal). Whether or not the collection of e-waste will be done at that event will be determined at a future date.
2. Mum Sale update (CH): The mum sale was held on Friday, September 22, 2023. Thanks to CH for organizing this effort, but also to all the numerous other volunteers that made this happen. It is currently estimated that \$100 was the net from the mum sales. It had been decided not to increase the purchase price to reflect the increased cost of the plants this year. The reason for doing so was to encourage the community's participation in the event. The purchase price will likely be raised for the next mum sale.
3. JM: Mayor Robert Jakubowski is to receive the prestigious ANJEC (Associates of New Jersey Environmental Commissions) Environmental Municipal Leadership award on Friday, October 15, 2023 at the 50<sup>th</sup> Annual ANJEC Congress at Mercer County Community College. He is one of five municipal officials that will be acknowledged. Congrats to Rob on his well-deserved award!
4. Garden Maintenance update (EQ):
  - a) The Merchant Street business plant containers were replanted on September 22, 2023 with mums (Mum Sale) purchased by The Greater Audubon Business Association. Thanks to CH, EQ, JM, AG, and AB for making this happen.
  - b) Cleanups were conducted at the Audubon Family Park Rain Garden, the Butterfly Waystation, and the Lions Club gazebo garden on Saturday, September 9, 2023. The Green Wave Park rain garden was cleaned up on Tuesday, September 26, 2023. Thanks to the many volunteers who accomplished this major task.
  - c) Sustainable Audubon (SA) will take over maintenance of the Lions Club gazebo garden and in return the Lions Club will provide a sign advertising this fact.
  - d) Two dwarf boxwoods were purchased using Lions Club funds and planted at the gazebo entrance. Good job EQ!

- e) David Taraschi (DT) has been requested to move at least 2 cubic yards of wood chips from the DPW yard to a designated area adjacent to the Green Wave Park rain garden as soon as his schedule and weather allows. These wood chips will be used to mulch the rain garden at a future date.
5. Shade Tree Program update (AB, EQ): The tree planting is to occur on Saturday, October 21, 2023 starting at 9:00. At that time, a planting demonstration will be given at the Shed by AB. Teams of 3-4 people will be assigned portions of the 20 trees to be planted and equipment and supplies provided as needed. All locations will have utility mark outs via New Jersey One Call (Dig Safe NJ) beforehand. Trees will be delivered to the appropriate locations prior to 9:00, October 21, 2023. Root 24 Inc. is funding the purchase of all the trees and Gator Bags, so thanks to Root 24 Inc. for their generous donation. SA will cover all other costs. Tags will be affixed to the trees advertising the support provided by Root 24 Inc. and SA as well as contact information regarding future participation in the shade tree program. Department of Public Works (DPW) assistance is unlikely due to the weekend timing of the planting and the full work schedule of the DPW at this time of year. Volunteers are still being solicited. Joan Buehler, Retrospect reporter, is being approached for news coverage of the planting event/effort.
  6. Trex bench/plastic recycling update (AG): A total of 316 lbs. was collected in September. DPW collected 110; 186 came from Edmund Optics; and 20 came from Mt. Ephraim. SA has collected over 1,500 lbs. of plastic for recycling with one more month (October) yet to go in the 6-month collection period. This is well above the amount needed to qualify for a new Trex bench. The Audubon Public Library will likely be the next Trex bench recipient. Post meeting note – DPW assembled the Trex bench that was being stored in the Shed and delivered it to Memorial Grove. Marianne Brown has been notified.
  7. Community Energy Plan (CEP) update: Tabled for now.
  8. Sustainable Jersey and PSE&G Energy Efficiency Partnership program (SJ-PSE&G EEPP) grant update (TS):
    - a) Application for an additional \$5,000 in funding for the Residential Energy Efficiency Program was discussed with the group. This included potential options on how to use these funds. Installation of an LED sign, support for printing and copying materials, and enhancing social media efforts were included among the funding uses considered. Concerns about the location and the sustainability of an LED sign were voiced and discussed. The application process will proceed for now because of the deadlines involved; however, review of the proposed options (which are part of the application) is to be circulated among the group for comment prior to any formal submission.

- b) Tabling efforts regarding the PSE&G giveaways and table skirt were discussed. The need to provide photo documentation to SJ-PSE&G for this and all other related activities was also raised.
  - c) DT will be approached regarding street banner placement on the fence at Audubon Family Park.
  - d) Post meeting note: The SJ-PSE&G EEP effort was advertised at the October 19, 2023 Shredding and e-waste event by distribution to Audubon residents of giveaway items and informational handouts.
9. Third Friday update (JM): SA attended the September 14, 2023 Third Friday event. Thanks to JM, RR, and SP for covering the event.
  10. Lion's Club update (TS/JM): The nature of SA as an organization was presented at a September 27, 2023 meeting of the Lions Club. Projects; activities; educational outreach; and technical support to the Borough that involve SA were also discussed. An appeal for SA to partner in the future with the Lions Club was also made.
  11. Earmark update: Tabled for now.
  12. Summer Reading Program prize update (JM): AG has offered to provide a tour of the solar panel system at the Shed and other nearby SA projects as the prize. However, the Audubon Public Library has not identified either the winner or the desired timing. This is becoming problematic as preparations to overwinter the relevant projects are currently proceeding. AG is on hold for now.
  13. Potential electric vehicle charge station update: Tabled for now.
  14. Ivy removal update (JM): DH approached SA to contact DPW with a request to clear ivy from trees located in the curb strip in her neighborhood. DPW has addressed the situation.
  15. Next meeting is Wednesday, November 1, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the Audubon Senior Center