

Sustainable Audubon Meeting Summary for February 7, 2024

Attendees: Stacey Behm (SB), Aimee Bentley (AB), Ann Gillespie (AG), Cheryl Hauske (CH), Diane Herbert (DH), Robert Jakubowski (RJ), Jeanne Mugler (JM), Darren Norgrum (DN), Sandy Perchetti (SP), Regina Richards (RR), Allison Schnackenberg (AS), and Terry Sugihara (TS)

1. AS asked on behalf of the Audubon Celebration Committee (ACC) if Sustainable Audubon (SA) would act as the Guest of Honor of this year's Audubon 4th of July Parade. SA agreed. Details on vehicles and theme to be finalized later. SB and DH volunteered to assist in coordination with the ACC regarding vehicles, decoration, and theme.
2. Discussion of potential/scheduled events for SA for the period from January 2024 through June 2024.

Post-meeting Note: A conceptual plan should be developed for each event effort to allow productive discussion at upcoming meetings. The proposed action, the scheduling, cost information, assigned tasks, types of assistance needed, etc. should be described to the extent the information is available. If the lead people are unable to attend the next meeting, the conceptual plan still needs to be made available to the rest of SA.

- a. April 27, 2024 - Audubon Day: Location will be Audubon Family Park with usual two sessions scheduled. Daytime family-oriented activities (10:00 to 3:00) followed by an evening session including live music (6:00 to 9:00). SA location and activities are anticipated to be similar to last year. Energy efficiency, tree planting efforts, and recycling are the likely focus. Shed and Audubon Family Park garden cleanups are tentatively scheduled for April 20th. The Lions Club garden cleanup is scheduled for May 11th and the Green Wave Park rain garden cleanup date is to be determined. EQ is the garden cleanup lead.
- b. May 3, 2024 - Spring plant sale delivery date. Approach is the same as previous events. Details to follow. CH is the lead.
- c. "Third Fridays" or equivalent events participation to be determined. SA is awaiting information specifics from organizers. JM will likely be the lead.
- d. Haviland Avenue School Monarch Butterfly event (previously held May 5, 2023): Topic needs to be confirmed with Haviland School as sustainability and gardening may be this year's theme instead of Monarch butterflies. It is anticipated that two shifts will be needed to cover the event. Canopy set up is being requested. Inventory of appropriate supplies and potential ordering will also need to be done. RR is the lead.
- e. An educational session featuring a certified gardener presentation is proposed. A potential topic is stormwater management using plants. SP is the lead.

3. Discussion of other SA activities
 - a. Christmas light collection at Audubon Hardware with recycling by Magnum Recycling was a success and a repeat is planned for next year with more advance notice. JM is the lead.
 - b. T-shirt order has been filled and shirts distributed. Thanks to JM for getting this done.
4. Shade Tree Program funding and outreach discussion
 - a. Funding options potentially available to pursue include NJ Tree Foundation, 1 Tree Planted Grant; New Jersey Audubon Watershed Grant; and the Green Communities Grant (Community Forestry Management Plan). AB is the lead.
 - b. Proposed planting schedule will be determined by the availability of funds. The intent is still to plant in 2024. AB and EQ are the leads.
 - c. Tree pamphlet is ready in draft form. Circulation of photocopy trifold format at table events is under consideration. SB and SP are the leads.
 - d. Photo contest details currently envision an entry fee of \$5.00 for an Audubon tree related picture. Fee submission would be primarily through Venmo with the proceeds used to support the tree planting effort. A \$50 gift certificate has been suggested as the prize (provided by SA) with judging by DH, AB, AG, and SB who are the leads. Photo format and submission dates are still to be finalized with the Audubon July 4th celebration a potential award date.
5. Trex Bench/plastic recycling: AG reported a January collection amount of 210 lbs. Mansion Avenue School has begun its own plastic recycling program with transport to the Acme to be handled by the school. AG noted that Nordstrom (Cherry Hill) is accepting all categories of plastic for recycling and will inquire about the details of how Nordstrom is doing that collection.
6. Community Energy Program (CEP) update
 - a. CEP Plan public hearings were held January 3, 2024 and January 16, 2024. The Audubon Borough subsequently adopted a resolution confirming the CEP Plan as the blueprint for implementation and action regarding Audubon energy matters. The final version of the CEP Plan reflects the input received and is currently being prepared as is final payment to ACT Engineers. RJ is the lead with TS in support.
 - b. CEP Implementation (CEPI) grant will be applied for to finance the construction of the Borough's energy priorities. The Borough has adopted a resolution endorsing the application process. The latest application deadline is now March 24, 2024. Negotiations with Blue Sky Power are currently ongoing to facilitate application preparation. Solar panel installation on municipal buildings and EV charger installation are the primary candidates for the grant proposed construction with public outreach a component of both. RJ is the lead with TS in support.

7. Sustainable Jersey and PSE&G Energy Efficiency Partnership program (SJ-PSE&G EEPP) grant update
 - a. A proposed joint information session on May 6, 2024 between the residents of Audubon, Barrington, and Haddonfield is being organized. This will be a virtual meeting using Zoom. A PSE&G representative will present a brief overview of the energy efficiency partnership program and be available to answer questions. TS is the lead for this portion of the Borough's grant.
 - b. Grant expenditures were briefly discussed. The primary concern is the Borough's failure to establish electrical service to the Shed which is required to install the electronic message board. TS is to contact David Taraschi (DT) for an update and to try to facilitate initiation of the work. TS is the lead for this portion of the Borough's grant.
8. Old Business/ New Business
 - a. Trivia contest concept being developed. JM is the lead.
 - b. SP and RJ will be applying for a grant from AARP entitled, "Inter-generational Equipment Use at Audubon Family Park". SP and RJ are the leads.
9. The next SA meeting is Wednesday, March 6, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. at the Audubon Senior Center.