

**Horsham Township  
Environmental Advisory Board  
Meeting Minutes  
February 22, 2022**

In attendance:

BOARD:

Marc Newell, Chairperson  
Steve Quigley, Vice Chairman  
Joanne Coniglio, Secretary  
Ashlee Biondo  
Sharon Diasio  
Robert Ehlenberger  
Arezo Siegfried (absent)

STAFF:

Larry Burns, Director of Community &  
Economic Development

AUDIENCE:

Mr. Newell called the meeting to order at 7:03pm.

Mr. Newell asked for the will of the board regarding the minutes of the board meeting of January 25, 2022. Ms. Coniglio motioned for approval, second by Mr. Quigley. All in favor, motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Newell noted at our last meeting, among other things, we discussed Birdtown USA, which perhaps only a handful of townships in Bucks and Montgomery County have earned that accreditation. Mr. Burns said he hoped to bring something to the next meeting, that would clarify the path and process to being named a Birdtown USA, in hopes that we could initiate the process in the months to come.

Mr. Burns noted that the township was in the process of putting together the newsletter that would precede Horsham Day, and that that issue usually discusses at length the Horsham Day activities. Township staff has inquired whether the EAB would be hosting a plant swap this year, and Mr. Burns acknowledged it was a tradition the EAB has done in the past, and that a decision on it had to be made tonight if it were to be included in the newsletter. Ms. Biondo expressed how well received and attended plant swaps had been in the past and Mr. Newell agreed and further elaborated on how they were run in past years. Mr. Ehlenberger made the suggestion that conifers be available for the plant swap given how the October tornados impacted local pine trees. After various discussions, the board agreed that they would hold a plant swap on the Friday before Horsham Day.

The discussion returned to EAB projects, and topics of naturalizing basins, native species ordinances and Birdtown were again briefly discussed. Mr. Burns agreed to try to “distill” the Birdtown USA presentation from the January meeting into more of a game plan for executing a project. Mr. Burns asked Ms. Coniglio if she had any luck making contact with the Arbor Foundation and she confirmed she did not have the opportunity. Mr. Burns confirmed he made calls into the regional representative but was unsuccessful making contact. Mr. Burns noted the group was commonly known for donating replacement trees and saplings to communities that experienced natural disasters and thought to reach-out to see what support may be available for Horsham in the wake of the September tornado. Mr. Burns inquired if the EAB in the past has planted trees on Earth Day or Arbor Day, and indicated that we could seek the assistance of the township’s public works department should we choose to. The board was generally supportive of the idea. Mr. Newell also inquired into the township’s new yard waste dumping procedures. Mr. Burns acknowledged it had recently change and the location moved from Deep Meadow Park to the Public Works Complex. Mr. Burns agreed to search the particulars and email the board before the next meeting. The board also discussed in general Horsham Day preparations.

#### **Updates and Events:**

Mr. Burns indicated there was some positive news regarding the identified landfills numbers 3 and 12 on the former base property, and that work to consolidate the contamination at those locations and install a cap at each had begun and was expected to be completed in several months. Mr. Ehlenberger asked if the sites would be lined and what contaminants were there. Mr. Burns confirmed that they would not be lined and he did not recall the contents. He did say that both DEP and the EPA have approved the methodology of both projects. Mr. Newell made note that the Restoration Advisory Board has reviewed and studied these sites for years and it was great that the landfills are finally being addressed in this way.

#### **Plan Reviews:**

Hatboro-Horsham School District – 227 Meetinghouse Road (21-13-D) was reviewed. There was various discussion on the project by the board with some centered-on storm water management and MS-4. The board underscored their priority that native plant and tree species be used as part of the development of the project. Mr. Burns agreed to communicate this to the township manager.

#### **Open Discussion**

Mr. Newell asked if there was anything for open discussion, and there was none.

Mr. Newell asked for board members to think about projects and goals, and we could discuss again at the next meeting.

**Public Comment:**

Mr. Newell inquired if there was public comment. There was none. Mr. Newell reminded the board that the next meeting was to be on March 22nd at 7:00pm. With no further business, Mr. Newell adjourned the meeting at 7:44 pm.

**Minutes were approved March 22, 2022**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be the initials 'AN', is written over the text 'Minutes were approved March 22, 2022'.