

SOUTH STRABANE TOWNSHIP  
GREEN TEAM MEETING NOTES

September 22, 2022

**APPROVED MEETING NOTES**

The South Strabane Township Green Team held its Regular Meeting on Tuesday, August 2, 2022 at 5:04 p.m.

Present: Bracken Burns, Chair; Janie Deemer; Colleen Johnson; Roger Shaw; and Penny Steggles

Also Present: Jim Sutter, Assistant to the Township Manager

**1. Consideration of August 2, 2022 Meeting Notes**

The Meeting Notes of the August 2, 2022 meeting were considered and approved by acclamation.

**2. South Strabane Environmental Steward Award Discussion**

Chair Burns expressed his opinion that in order to encourage progress the individuals leading should be saluted and those lagging should be prodded. With that in mind, he expressed his opinion it is time for the Township to salute those who lead. To do this, he recommended the establishment of the South Strabane Township Environmental Steward Award. He stated anyone in the Township is eligible to be nominated and those nominated will be recommended by the Green Team for recognition by the Board of Supervisors. He stated he envisions recognition occurring on an ad hoc basis with no schedule or limit.

Ms. Johnson asked if the award will be open to residents and businesses and if the award is for conservation efforts or recycling. Chair Burns stated the answer to both questions is yes, so long as the activity is “green”. He stated the award is for those who go above and beyond “green” actions. Mr. Shaw expressed the opinion there should be requirements. Chair Burns stated anyone recognized will need to be sold to the Green Team at large. A discussion ensued on different ways those awarded could be recognized. There was the consensus at the least the awardees will be featured in the Township’s newsletter.

Ms. Steggles moved to recommend the Board of Supervisors establish the South Strabane Environmental Steward Award. Ms. Johnson seconded the motion.

Ms. Deemer requested clarification on if the Green Team would be the entity judging those nominated. Chair Burns stated it would, but anyone in the Township can nominate. Ms. Deemer inquired on establishing a list of criteria. Mr. Shaw noted there are lists of criteria for similar programs available. Chair Burns stated they will recognize a worthy awardee when it is presented to them. A discussion ensued on the potential adoption of criteria. Chair Burns stated having criteria is good, but they do not want to restrict themselves in recognitions.

The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**3. Tree Programs Overview**

Assistant to the Township Manager Jim Sutter provided an overview of the Tree City USA Program and the four standards to meet in order to receive the recognition: formation of a tree board or department; establishment of a tree care ordinance; maintenance of a community forestry program; and proclamation and observation of Arbor Day. He stated these standards will require significant coordination with the Board of Supervisors and Public Works Department. Ms. Deemer suggested the recently established Parks and Recreation Commission could serve as the tree board. Chair Burns stated he envisioned the Green Team serving as this entity. A discussion ensued on the benefits of the Tree City USA Program.

Ms. Johnson moved to recommend the Township move forward with becoming a Tree City USA. Mr. Shaw seconded the motion. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**4. Property Beautification Update**

Mr. Sutter reported all the nominees have been provided to Ms. Steggles to forward to the Martha Washington Garden Club for judging. Ms. Steggles stated they will determine the winners in the coming days. A discussion ensued on future Property Beautification Award Programs.

**5. Litter Pickup**

Mr. Sutter reported a litter pickup occurred along Berry Road last Saturday with five attendees. A discussion regarding setting a regular monthly litter pickup date was held. Ms. Johnson noted Ms. Deemer had previously suggested having a pickup in coordination with a Green Team meeting. Chair Burns noted there are obstacles to this that make it difficult to succeed.

Mr. Shaw moved to establish the regular litter pickup date as the third Saturday of each month from April through October at 9:00 a.m. Ms. Deemer seconded the motion. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

With the new schedule implemented, it was determined the next litter pickup will occur on October 15, 2022 at 9:00 a.m.

**6. Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Green Team, the meeting was adjourned at 6:09 p.m.