

SOUTH STRABANE TOWNSHIP  
GREEN TEAM MEETING NOTES

January 19, 2023

**APPROVED MEETING NOTES**

The South Strabane Township Green Team held its Regular Meeting on Thursday, January 19, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.

Present: Bracken Burns, Chair; Janie Deemer; Barry Johnson; Mark McCurdy; Roger Shaw; Don Sisul; Penny Steggles

Also Present: Jim Sutter, Assistant to the Township Manager

**1. Consideration of December 8, 2022 Meeting Notes**

The Meeting Notes of the December 8, 2022 meeting were considered and approved by acclamation.

**2. South Strabane Environmental Steward Award**

Chair Burns reported the Board of Supervisors will present Bristol Joseph with first Environmental Steward Award at next week's meeting and invited everyone to attend if able. He described her activities in preserving migratory Monarch Butterflies. Chair Burns reminded the members to nominate anyone they feel worthy of the award, as it will be presented on a rolling basis.

**3. Solar Panel Article**

Chair Burns stated articles on solar panels powering municipal facilities in Pennsylvania have been provided and encouraged everyone to read them. He stated solar panels are inherently "green" and noted the Township needs a lead in terms of a vendor or consultant. Chair Burns noted roofs can be comprised of solar panels rather than shingles. Ms. Deemer described personal contacts of hers who utilize solar panels. Mr. Shaw noted credits can be received for solar panel installation. A discussion on how power generated by solar panels ensued.

Chair Burns asked Ms. Deemer if her contact was available. Ms. Deemer stated they were and are very knowledgeable. A discussion on finances ensued. Chair Burns stated there needs to be an individual with more knowledge than him to guide the group. Mr. Shaw stated he knows of a company that put solar panels in at Cross Creek Township that works with municipalities. Ms. Steggles stated the Board of Supervisors and Township residents need to be convinced of the utility of this project. Chair Burns stated a plan needs to be in place before it can be taken to the Supervisors. Ms. Steggles stated the residents still need to be convinced. Chair Burns noted it is not up to the residents as they elected the Supervisors to make these decisions. A discussion ensued on education and communication.

**4. Tree Programs**

Chair Burns stated a previous visit from Dr. Jason Kilgore from Washington & Jefferson provided a great deal of information, but not much movement has occurred to date. He expressed his desire to see the Township become part of a tree program and the group should look and see what fits the Township best. Mr. Sisul asked for clarification on if these are trees for Township property. Chair Burns stated this is mostly the case, but there may be programs that provide trees to residents as

well. Ms. Steggles noted the Martha Washington Garden Club is working with Dr. Kilgore in planting trees in Washington Park and stated this is something the group could potentially get involved in. Mr. McCurdy asked if Dr. Kilgore could suggest a best program for the Township's needs and suggested the formation of a tree committee. Mr. Shaw suggested tree care ordinances from other municipalities be consulted and one potentially be adopted for the Township. Chair Burns noted this would be something that would require being sold to the Board of Supervisors. Discussion ensued regarding a possible tree ordinance.

**5. Pennsylvania Master Naturalist Course**

Chair Burns noted a new Master Naturalist Course is starting soon and stated the members of the Green Team would likely be interested. Chair Burns stated that himself and Mr. Shaw had already completed the course and invited Mr. Shaw to provide some additional information. Mr. Shaw stated the course discusses the different parts of naturalism, including items such as geology. He stated there are field trips involved and the course takes place over 3 to 4 Saturdays. Mr. Shaw stated some volunteer work is required to graduate and it is a good networking opportunity. Mr. McCurdy asked if there was any testing necessary as a prerequisite. Mr. Shaw stated there is only a short interview.

**6. Litter Discussion**

Assistant to the Township Manager Jim Sutter provided information on the Pennsylvania Fights Dirty campaign to the group. Ms. Deemer recommended the Township host an event in April for Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful and to begin advertisement and planning at this time. A discussion ensued regarding Green Team activities and outside communication.

**7. Committees Discussion**

Mr. McCurdy suggested the Green Team form committees to work on specific activities. A discussion on the formation of a litter committee ensued.

Ms. Steggles moved to form a litter committee comprised of Mr. McCurdy, Mr. Shaw and Ms. Steggles. Mr. McCurdy seconded the motion. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Shaw inquired on a method of contacting Roadmasters for area municipalities regarding sending results of a Chartiers Creek Watershed Salt Study. Mr. Sutter stated he would reach out to Public Works Director Russ Grego to see if he had contact information for his colleagues at the other municipalities in the Chartiers Creek Watershed. A discussion regarding salt usage ensued.

**8. Adjournment**

The Green Team adjourned at 5:09 p.m.