

SOUTH STRABANE TOWNSHIP
GREEN TEAM MEETING NOTES

February 9, 2023

APPROVED MEETING NOTES

The South Strabane Township Green Team held its Regular Meeting on Thursday, February 9, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.

Present: Bracken Burns, Chair; Mark McCurdy; Roger Shaw; Penny Steggles; Bristol Joseph

Also Present: Jim Sutter, Assistant to the Township Manager

Chair Burns introduced new member Bristol Joseph to the Green Team. Members of the Green Team took turns introducing themselves.

1. Consideration of January 19, 2023 Meeting Notes

The Meeting Notes of the January 19, 2023 meeting were considered and approved by acclamation.

Mr. McCurdy asked if Green Team Meeting Notes could be placed on the Township website with the other Boards and Commissions. Assistant to the Township Manager Jim Sutter stated they are typically placed on the website, but recent meetings may not have been posted yet. Mr. Sutter stated he would check on this and post any outstanding approved Meeting Notes on the Township website after the meeting.

2. Milkweed in Township Parks

Chair Burns introduced the idea of planting milkweed in Community Park in conjunction with Ms. Joseph's efforts at conserving migratory Monarch Butterflies, for which she was recently awarded the South Strabane Environmental Steward Award. Chair Burns noted he envisioned an area by the railroad tracks off of the main walking loop. He stated he had discussed it with Public Works Director Russ Grego, who is in favor of the idea. Chair Burns opened the floor to a discussion on the logistics of accomplishing this.

Ms. Steggles expressed concern over the toxicity of milkweed. Mr. Shaw noted there are already plants more toxic than milkweed in Community Park. Mr. Shaw stated preparation is important in developing this proposal. He suggested a mixture of milkweed and other plants which attract Monarch Butterflies. Mr. Shaw suggested a seed company, Ernst Seeds, located in Meadville, Pennsylvania as a source for seed mixtures. A discussion ensued regarding the preparation process.

Chair Burns suggested a group take a site visit to Community Park to verify the location of the plantings and determine the amount of seed mixture needed as the next step in preparation. It was decided Chair Burns and Mr. Shaw would meet with Public Works Director Grego at a time to be determined in the next week, with any other members of the Green Team welcome to join if available.

3. Solar Panels at Municipal Facilities

Mr. Sutter reported a company experienced with installing solar panels at municipal properties had been suggested to him by Mr. Shaw. He stated he hadn't had the opportunity to reach out to them at this time. Mr. Shaw stated the company, Energy Independent Solutions, had worked with the Washington County Parks and Recreation Department to install panels at Cross Creek Park.

Chair Burns expressed interest in contacting this company and inviting them to meet with the Green Team to discuss the Township's options. A discussion ensued on taking a proposal to the Board of Supervisors.

4. Litter Pickup Discussion

Mr. Sutter reminded the Green Team that the third Saturday of every month from April through October was established as the group's regular litter pickup date last Fall. He noted this date, April 15th is about two months away. Chair Burns noted North Main Street has a lot of litter currently along its sides. A discussion regarding potential streets to have litter pickup ensued. Mr. Shaw suggested the area around Washington Hospital. Chair Burns asked members of the Green Team to keep a lookout for trouble areas and noted a location will be determined before the scheduled date.

Mr. McCurdy reported he had called the "Adopt-a-highway" contact to ask who had adopted East Beau Street. He stated he was told they did not currently have a record for which group had adopted it. A discussion on available streets to adopt in South Strabane Township ensued.

5. Adjournment

The Green Team adjourned at 4:56 p.m.