

SOUTH STRABANE TOWNSHIP  
GREEN TEAM MEETING NOTES

December 8, 2022

**APPROVED MEETING NOTES**

The South Strabane Township Green Team held its Regular Meeting on Thursday, December 8, 2022 at 2:06 p.m.

Present: Bracken Burns, Chair; Mark McCurdy; and Roger Shaw

Also Present: Jim Sutter, Assistant to the Township Manager

**1. Consideration of September 22, 2022 Meeting Notes**

The Meeting Notes of the September 22, 2022 meeting were considered and approved by acclamation.

**2. Set New Monthly Meeting Date**

The setting of the second Thursday of each month as the new meeting date was approved by acclamation.

**3. Property Beautification Debriefing**

Chair Burns drew special attention to Tom Zeni, one of the winners in the residential category. He stated Mr. McCurdy had nominated him and noted how he had shown his appreciation for the honor in his remarks before the Board of Supervisors.

Mr. McCurdy was presented his certificate for coming in second place in the residential category.

Chair Burns requested any thoughts regarding this year's program. Mr. McCurdy stated there was a challenge in selecting winners. He expressed a desire to have visits to the properties that are nominated. Chair Burns noted there was an inequality in the quantity and quality of photographs submitted for those properties nominated. He stated including this would be helpful. Chair Burns added that while he agreed with this, there are logistical issues to overcome.

Mr. Shaw questioned the reasoning for awarding 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> places instead of just announcing three winners given how subjective the decision can be. Chair Burns noted there is still a bias towards those property owners that perform the work themselves versus those that have work done professionally. Mr. McCurdy noted if the goal of the program is to encourage overall property aesthetics in the Township, then it should not be a significant factor. Chair Burns noted there is still a human element in judging despite the decision made to not factor this aspect.

Chair Burns noted he is supportive of Mr. Shaw's suggestion regarding having three awardees without placing them. It was the consensus of the group to have the program again in 2023 and they would discuss these suggestions when it came time to plan in the Spring.

**4. Environmental Steward Award**

Chair Burns stated this award has a similar goal to the Property Beautification program in that it recognizes a good job. He stated he is a strong believer that good deeds should be recognized.

Chair Burns stated that to date, they have only received one nomination so far, but he is of the opinion the nominee, Bristol Joseph, merits being recognized. The group reviewed the nomination and discussed Ms. Joseph's efforts at preserving migratory Monarch Butterflies. It was decided by acclamation to recommend the Board of Supervisors recognize Bristol Joseph with a South Strabane Environmental Steward Award.

A discussion ensued on the logistics and it was decided to plan to recognize Ms. Joseph at the January 24, 2023 board meeting. A discussion ensued on whether an official description of the award should be adopted.

**5. Tree City USA**

Assistant to the Township Manager Jim Sutter stated the next step in the Township's efforts in becoming recognized by Tree City USA would be to have the Board approve the efforts. Chair Burns expressed his belief the Board had already done this. Mr. Sutter stated he would confirm this before moving on to the next steps.

**6. Fire Department and Litter Pickup**

Chair Burns stated Fire Chief Jordan Cramer has volunteered the firefighters with assisting in litter pickup either in a support role or through direct collection. He asked the group to keep this in mind for when litter pickups resume in the Spring.

Chair Burns asked if there were any other items to consider. Mr. McCurdy asked if anyone had thoughts on recruitment. Chair Burns noted the group should decide if there is anything that can be done regarding solar energy. Mr. Shaw stated there is a company that does this with municipalities and the Township would just need to rent out the roof. Chair Burns noted he does not view this as a money maker, but as community service.

**7. Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Green Team, the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.