

Environmental Advisory Council
Public Meeting
Wednesday, February 2, 2022
7:00 pm
Zoom meeting

In attendance Mimi Satterthwaite, Jennifer Poole, Mary Mertens and Maureen Lucak

We are collecting String Lights!

DATE	Gross	Tare	NET	Price	Total
1/14/2022	112	60	52	0.1000/LB	\$5.00
2/2/2022	16	0	16	0.1000/LB	\$2.00

Current:

a. Pollinator garden at Vista Road and Vernon Road

Anne Brennan took a look at the plants/shrubs/tree her recommendation is: Per Anne “ I assume that the existing sickly cherry tree and the shrubs will be removed, so it will be a blank slate with just the light post and the two stop signs. I also believe you said everyone agrees the plantings should remain low so they don't impact visibility from cars or pedestrians, so I'm keeping that in mind.

I think one key is to plant a dense, semi-evergreen groundcover around the perimeter that will maintain a neat edge appearance throughout the year, despite many of the other plants going dormant. Here are two ideas that spring to mind for an approximately 2-foot border around the island:

- Blue wood sedge – <https://www.northcreeknurseries.com/plantName/Carex-flaccosperma->
- Seersucker sedge – <https://www.northcreeknurseries.com/plantName/Carex-plantaginea->

Then the interior can be planted with clumps of hardy pollinator plants that you're no doubt familiar with, such as:

- Agastache (hyssop)
- Echinacea (coneflower)
- Asclepias tuberosa (the small orange milkweed, not the large common milkweed which would be too large there)
- Asters
- Caryopteris (small shrub)
- Nepeta (catmint)
- Calamintha nepeta (lesser calamint)
- Pycnanthemum (mountain mint)
- Lavender

As much as I love the goldenrod (*Solidago*) cultivars for bees, I think those might spread too much for this small space so should probably be left out.

I wonder if there will be an issue with road salt or plowed snow impacting the plants on this island. Often traffic islands become dumping spots for plows to push the snow up against, because there's so much pavement around them to be cleared. Maybe the neighbors can put those fiberglass stakes around the perimeter each winter to mark the edge and hope for the best. Still, I'm thinking about plants that have some salt tolerance.”

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- If approved by council Judi Levicoff will talk to York Road Garden Club about assistance
- George Locke mentioned One Call can help with underground pipes/lines
- George Locke mentioned it would improve the site line at that corner
- Louisa Garrido who lives on the street approached JEAC about the pollinator garden. Louisa spoke with the neighbors, and they have agreed with the idea. She has the ok from four neighbors and is checking with the remaining two neighbors.

Anne Brennan will provide a planting site layout for the island, she's on it.

b. Pesticide Use in the Borough

- Need to see how other townships handle pesticide use I have information on [Responsible Home Gardening in Whitemarsh Township – Pesticides](#)

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c. Garbage disposals are they good or bad?

d. Washing machine lint traps I would like to create a short video on the installation of lint traps

- e. **Research solar panels for municipal buildings** – for if and when roofs need replacing. Also look into grant availability. Some people in the borough have solar panels already, would like to talk with them.
- f.
- g. **Energy efficient hot water heaters**
 - Anne Brennan provided Maureen with a name of a water heater that she has in her home and mentioned the pros and cons
- h. **Heritage trees**
 - Maureen has a contact with Colonial Canopy Trees for free trees (St Thomas of Whitemarsh just planted 3 American Chestnut Trees 😊 not hybrids)
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- i. **De-vine tree/house code policy**
 - Need to review let's get a date on the calendar to meet at my house I have the information that is on Whitemarsh Township's webpage
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- j. **Common invasive plant**
 - Have located a flyer need to see if I can get more to leave in Borough Hall and see how I can post to Green Jenkintown [Pennsylvania Field Guide Common Invasive Plants in Riparian Areas](#)
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- k. **Fatbergs**
 - Still want to do it I think it is very important. We had two fatbergs in the past few years one in a residential area on Mather Road and another one in the business district. George Locke mentioned that they are monitoring the restaurant business much better for grease disposal.
 - I have an article [Fatbergs in the Sewer](#) by Nancy Sullins MPH, LEED AP will post to Green Jenkintown
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- l. **EV charging station**
 - Andrea M is helping with the collection of data
- m. **Borough webpage for JEAC**

Chapter 14. Environmental Action Committee will review next month.
- n. **Single plastic use**

-Philadelphia did it, NY state did it, can we meet with the business in Jenkintown to see if they would support it Andrea received notes from a meeting *“Yesterday I found out about an effort by multiple Montgomery municipalities to ban single use plastic at the municipal level. I know this has been brought up as something to look into and it looks like we can join this coalition for support and to show that it's a larger effort from many localities.*

I was sent the notes (Maureen has a copy)) from the meeting held on Monday. They had representatives from Penn Environment, Clean Air Council, and Julie from TTF. From what I've gathered about the effort:

- *Coalition lends itself as a working group so aren't going it alone*
- *Each of the 12 municipalities with reps are working to get ordinance passed locally by the end of the year*
- *\$0.15 /bag fee for plastic bags*
- *want to appeal to businesses - make this a plus - this will be net zero cost and improve profitability, while showing support for the environment.*

I plan on reaching out to the point of contact to find out more and to see when they meet next."

How do you both feel about the EAC trying to pass a ban through council?

o. Bike repair station

- Jay Conner was going to bring it up to council again

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p. H2O fountain in town square – just a dream

Elimination of gas-powered leaf blowers When Philly's gorgeous trees drop their leaves, what's a neighbor to do?

If the answer is a typical oil-and-gas leaf blower, the emissions are off-the-charts bad. How bad? Hydrocarbon emissions from a half-hour of leaf blowing are about the same as a 3,900-mile drive from Texas to Alaska in a Ford Raptor pickup truck. (Quoted in this week's NY Times: <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/10/25/opinion/leaf-blowers-california-emissions.html>)

What clean options are there? Try an electric leaf blower.

Safe salt for sidewalks and Driveways keeping salt out of the storm drains and streams.

<https://www.mprnews.org/story/2019/02/12/are-there-eco-friendly-alternatives-to-road-salt>,

<https://www.ecowatch.com/sustainable-alternatives-winter-salts-2656111075.html>,

<https://www.epa.gov/saferchoice/products#search=deicer>, And TTF does education on this topic so there are available resources. TTF updated their [fact sheet](#) this fall and also have trainings on the [Winter Salt Watch program](#), a citizen science project that people can participate in. [Watch a recording](#). [Request a salt kit](#).

I'll forward the TTF newsletter. -done

Wissahickon Trails Winter Salt Smart flyer posted to Green Jenkintown

Future topics

- **Hybrid police cars?** If/when police cars need to be replaced can we look into hybrid vehicles, we have the EV charging station. Our town is small with a lot of stop and go driving. Save on gas. Per George Locke “As we discussed, I was reading the results of the ‘Michigan Police Vehicle Tests’ and this year they included electric vehicles. The Mustang was very highly rated and passed the rigorous testing. My thought was there would be financial incentives that would assist purchase”. Also looking to replace police vehicle in 2023.
- NYC Buys 184 Electric Mustangs for Police and Other Agencies
- <https://www.policemag.com/627219/nyc-buys-184-electric-mustangs-for-police-and-other-agencies>
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- **Restaurants using reusable take out containers or encourage people to bring their own.**
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- **Earth Day April 22, 2022 the theme is “Climate Change”.** Friends of Cedar Street Park are planning on doing something at the park on that day.
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- Recognition of businesses that are practicing “green” ie, solar, recycling, reusable take out containers, composting etc Will be highlighted on Green Jenkintown and JEAC borough webpage. Will speak to Mr. Locke in more detail about this. Judi. L has spoke to a few businesspeople.
- York Way Place “redo” I reached out to Chelsea Sperger. I saw a lot of nice “alleys” whilst in England and France some were way smaller in width that York Way Place. 😊 This place has a lot of potential.
- Another potential pollinator garden on an island on Newbold Road near Washington Lane across from the Vision of Hope Baptist Church