

HCC Meeting Minutes

January 21, 2021

Attendees: Paula Hughes (Chair), Anne Learn-Sharpe, Angelica Tang, Susan Antler, Georgia Bubel, Shannon Stephens

Staff: Elizabeth Davis, Aimee Powell

Webinar

SS – What date is good for webinar? Able to create it within a week or two, or later than that.

– Want to avoid volunteer tree planting April- May.

– Good site there, sandy, plant in spring or fall should be good times – mulch on site will be needed.

ALS – What are the advantages to solarizing for weed suppression?

SS – a strategy is to use cardboard as a buffer under the soil to suppress the seeds, solarizing sterilizes plants from weed seeds.

ALS – Could we do the preparatory solarizing in Spring and plant in the Fall?

SS – Committee can source topsoil delivery companies to find out cost per load for soil delivery – plan for at least a foot depth for cover of existing grass – could add compost and mulch.

AT – Will the Township give free mulch, for savings?

AP – We have not made the request of Parks and Recreation for this initiative yet, but they agreed to provide mulch in previous year. Staff will follow-up and advise the Committee.

ALS – Ensure webinar circulation to interest a few more people, ahead of planting time in the spring maybe by March.

ALS – Georgia provided her schedule, free in evenings or after 2:00 pm or 3:00 pm.

GB – Are there (Township) social media accounts to advertise?

AP – Yes, the Township has Twitter, Facebook and (our) Essa website – we will advertise the webinar and progress of the Fall plant to show the Community the Committee's progress.

SS – NVCA will advertise the events as well however we will have to be careful with (attendee) numbers, based on then current restrictions.

AT – Utopia group, Gris Mill to promote, or will we have a restriction on webinar?

SS – Platforms cap out on 100 for webinars, can always record and post on YouTube.

AP – ED will assist with the technical side to manage webinar, and participation list – do a share screen for the presentation.

ALS – Question and answer, like a chat box should be available on Zoom, and Staff can manage the questions.

AP – ED and AP can monitor and pose the questions to SS, provide questions in the chat rooms.

The Committee decided that Thursday March 25th, 2021 will be the date for the webinar.

SA – Will the political leader be invited?

AT – Invite Mayor and Keith White.

AP – We will ensure we send out Notice to all of Council to rsvp – offer to all.

SA – Encourage people to come, if sign up we can provide something. Need to encourage to attend that should be incorporated.

AT – To promote it we have to have a plan for the webinar, what will make people interested to hear about it?

ALS – the topic is ‘How to plant a pollinator garden and how to plant with pollinators’ requested Committee to come up with a title or logo, download to put in your garden.

SS – Can do a PowerPoint presentation, make it hands on how to create pollinator garden in your back yard, could mail people a pollinator seed mix.

SA – Has to be meaningful to the people watching the webinar, want to be really involved.

– Could packages of wildflowers to mail out.

AT – Can do picture competition to keep people connected send to the Township’s Facebook.

SS – Survey during seminar, pop up questions – ask if beginner gardens, and helps keeps people’s attention.

AP – Sounds possible, have an understanding of how many participants, make sure engagement is continual.

Budget

AP – Council provided 2021 Budget last night where \$10,000 has been allocated to HCC for Trails restoration and Ecopark. We still have the initial \$5,000 from the grant that is also to be applied.

List of the Plants Chosen for the Garden

SS – Plants we’ve chosen – send a list – depending what’s on it may guard your design.

– Will send a summary of what the webinar will include.

ALS- By next meeting, list of names for project, can decide on a title – then vote and discuss at next meeting.

SS – Probably want to choose a size, 2.5 for larger flats of plants, some larger can be 5-10. Best to cost it when you get the native list. Get order in when there is still good selection and have the soil arranged for delivery. Consolidate list and then get a quote.

ALS – based on the location, we need to know how were going to water the garden, as the fence area might be more accessible.

AP – Watering will be challenging as there is no electricity on site so a pump would be costly. Rain barrels could be an alternative. There are limitations on this site and will have to better solution with Parks and Rec.

PH – we can look into the cost of rain barrels.

-Look into renting a pump.

Timing for Meeting

AP– HCC is the Committee available to meet during the day?

Committee confirmed they are not available to meet during the day, however decided that it works better for everyone to meet at 5:00 pm vs. 6:00 pm, for meetings moving forward.

New Members

AP– took a poll to see if anyone knows anyone that would be interested in joining the Committee to supplement existing members to ensure the meetings are well-attended and the Committee remains productive.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm

Next Meeting is February 18th at 5:00 pm