

Lower Gwynedd Township

Environmental Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

October 11th, 2023

Members in Attendance:

Lisa Brown, Co-Chair

Maureen Nunn

Mark Schafer, Co-Chair

Marianne Grey

Rea Monaghan

Brenda Doll

Associate Members: Rich Valiga, Suzanne Smith-Oscilowski

Board of Supervisors Liaison: Tessie McNeely

Staff In Attendance: Sandi Feight

Not in Attendance: Steve Saffier, Mike Twersky

Guest: Lisa Washabaugh, Mark Perlman, Sheila Judge

1. **Call to order.** The meeting was called to order at 7:07 pm.
2. **Minutes.** Minutes accepted as submitted.
3. **Request to move items from Consent Agenda to Regular agenda, and any other items to be considered as part of the Regular Agenda**
4. **Approval of Regular Agenda.** Agenda approved as presented
5. **Consent Agenda.** -nothing
6. **Old Business**
 - a. **Updates on:**
 - i. Going Green Award – Have completed interviewing the 6 candidates. Staff will send the zoom links to the selection committee for them to review and pick their top 3. Once these are selected, the committee will present to the full EAC at their November meeting and the EAC will select the winner. The Board of Supervisors Liaisons will have time to review. The hope is that the award can be given at a Board of Supervisors Meeting in December.
Items to take into consideration in the future
 - Will EAC members be eligible to participate?
 - Should we add a separate, additional youth category for the GGA?
 - Can we give honorable mentions?
 - ii. Tree Giveaway – Friday 10/13 setup at 2 p.m.

- a. Rhoades Garden will drop off bags of mulch; Suzanne was able to get the mulch for half price.
 - b. Trees will arrive at 2 p.m. Parson's Lane landscaper coordinated picking up the individual residents' trees for their neighborhood. Brenda will be picking up her neighbors' trees.
- iii. Fall Fest – The event was a success. EAC members were able to connect with other EAC chairpersons and library staff to partner on programs. Raffled off 2 compost bins.
- b. Calendar Updates**
- i. Regional EAC Conference: Maureen, Lisa, Mark and Tessie will all be attending on October 21.
 - ii. Battery Recycling: November 11, switch to November 18 due to potential conflict with Veterans Day ceremony.
 - iii. 2024 Dates for Key Activities
 - a. Joint meeting with the Board of Supervisors will need to be scheduled in January
 - b. Discussion on best way to setup a calendar for the EAC to view and set dates. It was asked that newsletter deadlines be added.
- c. Prioritization of Long-Range Projects:**
- Mark briefly discussed the long-range project document and the meeting he, Lisa and Sandi had with the John Farrell, the new project manager for the Township. The idea is that John will be able to help the EAC in organizing some of their long-range plans and seeing how they align with other projects that are occurring in the Township and how to actualize some of the projects. The discussion will be tabled until the next meeting. Lisa had also redistributed to the EAC the set of potential guidelines the EAC had developed last spring for contractors to consider. The EAC would like to have those available on display for the contractors to see when they are coming to complete permits; this is something that John could help with as well.

7. New Business -

- a. Pollinator Pathway Project – The EAC would like to encourage residents to establish pollinator gardens on their property. The idea is to sheet mulch an area, killing off lawn space that can be replanted with native pollinator species. The EAC could provide a planting guide and also, possibly, plants and mulch. We would like to establish a demonstration garden where we could show the whole process of preparing and planting such a garden, unlike the area that the EAC established at the Penllyn Woods Community Building. While the ideal time to sheet mulch an area would be in the Fall, we would now be looking at the Spring to begin the project. The EAC would like to add it to the calendar for 2024 and select an appropriate location and establish a sub-committee. Tessie brought up the budget discussion with the Board of Supervisors regarding the update to the plantings in front of the Township Building.

8. Standing Items – Committee and Liaison updates

- a. Staff Liaison report (Sandi) – Sandi gave a breakdown of the budget. The EAC has spent year to date \$10,353.21. There was also discussion regarding the EAC logo signs to be placed under the

stream crossing signs. Sandi will get a quote for the signs. This along with the purchase of additional signs would need to go in front of the Board of Supervisors.

- b. Planning Commission Liaison – Maureen stated the next meeting had been cancelled. It was also mentioned that Harth will have an Open House on October 12. Maureen encouraged members to attend since Harth was a nominee for the Going Green Award.
- c. Parks and Rec Liaison – Rea stated the September Board meeting had been cancelled.
- d. LGT Comprehensive Plan liaison – Rich stated there will be a Community Open House on October 26 from 4-6 pm.

9. Points of interest/General comments –

- a. Single Use Plastics~ Lisa had distributed a list to the EAC of various municipalities who were in the process of setting ordinances to the ban the use of single use plastics, particularly bags.

Meeting concluded @ 8:30 pm

Next meeting: Wednesday, November 8th