

Lower Gwynedd Township

**Environmental Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
February 14th, 2024**

Members in Attendance:

Lisa Brown
Mark Schafer, Chair (Zoom)
Rea Monaghan
Maureen Nunn
Brenda Doll
Marianne Grey

Associate Members: Rich Valiga

Board Of Supervisors Liaison: Tessie McNeely

Staff in Attendance: Sandi Feight

1. **Call to Order.** The meeting was called to order at 7 pm.
2. **Approval of prior 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.** Agenda approved as presented with a few Going Green Award comments from Maureen.
4. **Approval of Regular Agenda.** Agenda approved as is.
5. **Consent Agenda: January 10th meeting minutes; various reports**
6. **Old Business -**
 - a. **EAC Long-Range Planning Document-** There are a few grammatical errors to fix but the document is ready to give to the board of supervisors for review. Sandi will make the grammatical changes needed. The calendar attached shows the projects the EAC has traditionally completed during the year. There was a unanimous vote to approve the document.
 - b. **Agenda for the Joint Meeting –** Joint meeting with the BOS is scheduled for 2/29. Will present our Declaration of the EAC Chapter, introduce who we are, present our committee list and touch on our sub committees and present our accomplishments for the prior year. Sandi will need all documents for the BOS packet by Wednesday, 2/21. The EAC would like the BOS to let us know if things are a no-go or a go on their list of long-range plans.
 - c. **March 6th Save Energy to Save Money-**
 - a. **Action item:** The EAC unanimously voted yes to purchase Home Energy Savers Starter kits. Sandi will ask for the necessary funds for educational purposes for these kits. We will order 2 of item #1; the Energy Wise attic stairs covering and 4 each of items #2-5; the Flex Fix insulating duct tape, outlet socket sealers, can of insulating foam & tube of latex caulk. Kits will be assembled of items #2-5.
7. **Standing Items – Committee and Liaisons updates**
 - a. **Parks & Recreation Department & Staff Liaison report review –** P&R board did not meet in January. The staff are looking at grants and timelines for the 3 master plans. The Township trail clean-up is 4/13, the EAC is welcome to help. February 24 is the Virtual Conference with Conserve PA; Tessie, Marianne, Maureen, Rea, and Lisa have showed interest. The May battery collection is the same day as the Townships e-cycle and paper

shredding event; therefore, May battery collection will not take place and will resume the next scheduled collection date. Rea made the decision to step down from the board, but she will still help when she can.

b. **Planning Commission Liaison-** The members of the Planning Commission challenged Gwynedd Mercy University to produce a plan regarding the number of trees they are going to cut down. Gwynedd Mercy stepped up and came back with a great plan including planting native trees with a diversity of species, installing 2 electric chargers on campus, solar panels and hired an arborist who did an analysis of the CO2 calcs and savings in the excess of the number of trees that they were cutting down. At the next meeting they will be presenting a signage ordinance bill.

c. **LGT Comprehensive Plan Liaison-** The steering committee meeting discussed transportation issues in the township and surrounding townships. Lower Gwynedd falls into the category of using the least amount of public transportation. 21% of residents work from home. A sidewalk gap analysis was performed, and it appears that Lower Gwynedd has a huge sidewalk gap. The trails were not mapped either and we are trying to have more walking trails and bike lanes here in Lower Gwynedd. Most of the focus of the plan is to produce improvements along Sumneytown Pike. Rich will find out if these reports are available to the public and let the EAC know if they are and where to find them.

8. **Points of Interest/General Comments**

Mark shared two events that he will pass along to the members.

Other Upcoming Events.

- a. Upper Dublin Environmental Open House is March 9th – anyone can attend.
- b. PA Land Conservation Conference, April 3-5th, Wind Creek Bethlehem
- c. May 11th – Interpretative bog hike in Dingmans Ferry
- d. June 9th – Wetland restoration project at Duke Farm Hillsborough Township; planting 55,000 native plants in this project. Must pre-register.
- e. 100-year anniversary of the Wissahickon this year

Meeting concluded: @ 8:37 pm

Upcoming Events:

February 29th Joint EAC and Board of Supervisors Meeting @ Township Building 7pm

March 6th PECO Speaker @ Township Building 7pm

March 9th Battery and Techno Trash Collection 9 – 11 am @ Township Building

April 9th Bird Walk @ Penllyn Woods 8:30 am

April 13th Trail Cleanup 9-12 pm @ Township Building

Next Meeting: March 13, 2024