

Environmental Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

January 10th, 2024

Members in Attendance:

Lisa Brown

Mark Schafer, Chair

Rea Monaghan (Zoom)

Maureen Nunn

Brenda Doll

Marianne Grey

Associate Members: Rich Valiga

Board Of Supervisors Liaison: Danielle Duckett (Zoom) & Tessie McNeely

Staff in Attendance: Mimi Gleason, Township Manager (Zoom), 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.**
4. **Approval of Regular Agenda.** Agenda approved as is.
5. **Consent Agenda: prior meetings minutes; various reports.** Nothing
6. **Old Business -**
 - a. **Going Green Award – final steps:** Presentation will be at the Board of Supervisors meeting on January 23rd at 7 p.m. Mark thanked the committee for their time doing the interviews. All the winners have been notified.
 - b. **Review of 2023 Goals –** During 2023 the EAC held 2 movies nights, conducted a composting workshop and tree giveaway, storm drain marking, gave away native seeds packets, present at the Ambler Earth Fest and Fall Fest. Consistent presence in the monthly e-newsletters. Instituted a Green Award, which had 6 nominations and 3 awards; a winner, an honorable mention and a youth award. We expanded our tree giveaway, with the number of trees. Continued to do battery & techno trash recycling, as well as Christmas tree and Christmas tree lights recycling. We had members attend both the Winter and Fall EAC networking conferences and had a member present at the Fall conference. Members continued to participate in regular meetings of the Southeast PA Single Use Plastics Coalition, RF100 meetings and webinars/presentations from the DVRPC and Penn State Extension. Bird walks went on throughout the year. Finally, developing a set of long-range goals for the township to consider.
 - c. **Budget for 2024 –** There have been some changes to the 2024 budget. The budget amount will be the same but other commissions and boards will have access to this money also. The budget has been moved from Natural Resources to the General fund. The tree giveaway budget is separate. Sandi did request additional funding with the anticipation of inflation for the tree/shrub's giveaway.

- d. **Calendar updates** – Meeting with the Board of Supervisors is February 29, 2024, at 7 p.m. Battery and Techno Trash recycling will continue to be every other month starting this month. The date was moved back a week due to the MLK Holiday. Bird walks have been scheduled monthly through June. Parks & Recreation has a trail cleanup for Earth Day which EAC can help with. The annual tree giveaway will be on October 5. Registration will open up 9/5. Fall Fest is 9/21.
- e. **EAC Planning Document** – The Long-Range Planning Committee added information to the document presented to them at the November meeting by John Farrell. This document along with the 2023 End of Year report will be presented at the Board of Supervisors joint meeting after it is reviewed further.

7. New Business

- a. **Review of committee members, liaisons, etc.** – Board of Supervisors liaisons are Danielle Duckett and Tessie McNelly. Staff liaison is Sandi Feight. The Township needs to know all the sub-committees and members who are on those committees to ensure a quorum isn't reached. Sandi also created a calendar for the group to view and use for planning. Sandi will work on SharePoint for the group, she also offered to meet with everyone, so they have a better understanding of how to use the program.
- b. **EAC Committee Handbook** – It was suggested that each sub-committee write down what they do so that a handbook can be created. For example, the tree giveaway, timeline, where trees are purchased and etc.

8. Standing Items – Committee & Liaison updates

- a. **Staff Liaison report (Sandi), including budget review** – Sandi has been working on the Going Green Award letters. Nothing else to report.
- b. **Planning Commission Liaison** – Working with Gwynedd Mercy about carbon neutral aspects of their plans. They will be cutting down 500 trees. Johnson & Johnson is changing their parking lot.
- c. **Parks and Rec Liaison** – The board had their regular meeting in November, the Board is still working on the Park Master Plans. In addition, 2023 had several board members resign and new members have been appointed.
- d. **LGT Comprehensive Plan Liaison** – Rich reviewed the last meeting, saying that they are still gathering information. Tessie inquired if more meetings at more convenient times would be offered. Rich indicated that there would be more meetings planned in the future.

9. Points of Interest/General comments

Upper Dublin Environmental Open House is March 9th. Pa Land Conservation Conference is April 3-5th in Wind Creek Bethlehem. There is money in the budget for education.

Meeting concluded: @ 8:10 pm

Upcoming meeting:

Going Green Award Presentation @ BoS meeting January 23 @ 7pm

Regular Monthly Meeting for EAC, Wednesday, February 14 @ 7 pm

Joint meeting with the BOS – January 29 @ 7 pm