

Lower Gwynedd Township
Environmental Advisory Council
Meeting Agenda

April 10, 2024, 7:00 PM
Township Building Conference Room

Zoom Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89051004217?pwd=4dkWQ6XbesZxxliuhyTdDNnY7Rme3m.1>

Meeting ID: 890 5100 4217 **Passcode:** 809819 **Call in:** 646-931-3860; 929-205-6099

1. Call to order, attendance, introductions of new members, participants or visitors
2. Approval of prior minutes (attached)
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
5. Consent agenda: March 13, 2024 Meeting minutes; various reports
6. Old Business
 - a. Inflation Reduction Act – Energy Tax Credit ~ Wednesday April 24
7. Long Range Plan Items
 - a. Action Plan
8. Standing Items – Committee and Liaison updates
 - a. Parks & Recreation Department & Staff Liaison report review
 - b. Planning Commission liaison
 - c. LGT Comprehensive Plan liaison
9. Points of interest/General comments
 - a. Other meetings of interest

Upcoming EAC Events

- April 9th Bird Walk @ Penllyn Woods 8:30 a.m.
- April 13th Trail Cleanup 9-12 @ Township Building
- April 24 Inflation Reduction Act Energy Tax Credit, 7 pm
- May 11th, E-Waste Recycling Day & Paper Shredding Event 8-11am, Township Building

Next meeting: May 8, 2024

Environmental Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

March 13, 2024

Members in Attendance:

Mark Schafer, Chair

Lisa Brown

Rea Monaghan

Maureen Nunn

Associate Members: Suzanne Smith (Zoom)

Board Of Supervisors Liaison: Tessie McNeely

Staff in Attendance: Sandi Feight

1. **Call to order, attendance, introductions of new members, participants or visitors** – Meeting was called to order at 7 PM.
2. **Approval of prior minutes (attached)** – 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** - Approved
5. **Consent agenda:** February 14th, 2024 meeting minutes
6. **New Business**
 - a. Wissahickon Environmental Club donation – The Township was approached for a donation for the E-Cycle event being held the last part of April. Sandi added that the students would also be looking for help that day and suggested EAC members connect with the students to help.
 - b. Montgomery County EAC Resources Webinar – 3/28 or 3/29, the information was included in the packet for members to sign up.
7. **Old Business**
 - a. Wrap Up – Save Energy to Save Money Program 3/6
 - i. The EAC was disappointed in the attendance, the speaker was great. It was agreed their needs to be more outreach.
 - b. Inflation Reduction Act – Energy Tax Credit scheduled for 4/24
 - c. Wrap Up – We Conserve PA Virtual Conference February
 - i. Members who attended (virtually) stated it was a great program, great speakers along with topics. Sandi did post the speaker materials in Sharepoint for members who did not attend to look at. Members did speak about a deer management program and what they can do as a committee, Maureen will keep researching.
 - d. EAC Handbook
 - i. Lisa had put together a draft format of how the handbook should look. She asked that everyone give some input.
8. **Long Range Plans Items**
 - a. Sandi stated that the minutes had been approved from the Joint Meeting the night before and that she and John were working on a roadmap with action steps to move forward.
9. **Standing Items**
 - a. Parks & Rec Dept staff & liaison report – Sandi gave a brief update on upcoming events

- b. Planning Commission liaison – Maureen stated she had no report
- c. LGT Comprehensive Plan liaison - no report

10. Points of Interest/General Comments

- a. Other Meetings of Interest
 - i. Upper Dublin Event – Lisa stated the event held in Upper Dublin was nicely run. She added that each vendor gave a short presentation.
- b. Sustainability Committee Lower Merion Township Letter of Support HB1842
 - i. Tessie suggested that the EAC consider writing a letter of support for HB1842, to be approved by the Board of Supervisors. She was going to look into the timeline of when the bill was going to be voted.

Meeting concluded: @ 8:20 p.m.

Next Meeting: April 10, 2024

DRAFT

Decisions and Guidance from the BOS-EAC Joint Meeting on 2/29/2024

Overall Themes

- Continue the good work and programs that have been serving the residents.
- Focus efforts on education for homeowners and businesses.
- Work with other Township entities and outside organizations to conduct volunteer operations where possible, to maximize impact and build a stronger local environmental network. Incorporate the upcoming volunteer handbook as needed.
- Work within the Township's existing plans to promote environmental practices and education.

Land Stewardship

- Continue the annual native tree giveaway, public speakers, and workshops. This includes solar power information and taking care of native plants and gardens.
 - Tree Giveaway (reg open Sept, event Oct.) ~ Brenda / Suzanne
 - Tag Trees at Nursery ~ Suzanne.
 - Brenda ~ setup registration and plant list.
 - Public Speakers ~ Lisa, Tessie
 - Jumpstart Your Energy Savings Journey: Making the Inflation Reduction Act Work for You. April 24
- Organize volunteer events or find volunteers who will maintain existing and future gardens on Township properties.
 - EAC / Twp Staff have compiled a list of volunteers.
 - Garden Locations (Township Building, Penllyn Woods Pollinator, Penllyn Woods Rain Garden)
 - 3 Events
 - EAC & Parks & Recreation Board will work together to set the date, time and plan.
- Partner with the Parks & Recreation Board to implement demonstration projects and volunteer activities in locations identified in the Park Master Plans. These may include pollinator pathways, rain gardens, projects along trails, and education on invasive plants.
 - Staff will keep the EAC & P&R Board advised of timeline. Following the Master Plan implementation.
 - Education: through Social Media, Website and Events.

- Support Bird Town, Arbor Day, Tree City, and Earth Day objectives.
 - Bird Town ~ walks are scheduled through June with Steve Saffier
 - Arbor Day ~Township Staff will work on the resolution.
 - Tree City ~ Township Staff will continue to maintain paperwork for the status.
 - Earth Day Objectives
 - Planning or partnering with other agencies for Earth Day events.
 - Ex. P&R Dept Trail Cleanup, Wiss High School Recycling Event, Ambler Earth Day event.
- Provide education on deer management landscaping practices.
 - Maureen conducting research.
- Provide feedback to Township staff on the Tree Plan for improving the tree canopy.
 - John F. working with Gilmore to create scope and proposal for initial plan development.

RESOURCE CONSERVATION

- Continue to research strategies for dealing with single use plastics, seek input from business owners who would be impacted, and provide education about what the public can do to make a positive impact.
 - Assign EAC members to research challenges and success of strategies used in other municipalities.
 - Setup a meeting with local business owners to get their input.
- Assist in the creation of an RF100 task force by identifying the kinds of knowledge, skills, and abilities that would be ideal for different members to have. This will ultimately be used to determine a structure and mission for the task force.
 - EAC Members - Assemble information for the knowledge and skills needed for this task force.

COMMUNICATION / OUTREACH

- Continue to provide content for the Township's printed newsletters, e-newsletters, social media accounts, and at events like the Fall Fest.
 - E-Newsletter Articles (due to Twp staff 20th of every month)
 - EAC Members ~ primarily Brenda
 - Printed Newsletters (May - Fall Newsletter, December – Spring / Summer)
 - EAC Members and Staff
 - Social Media - ongoing
 - EAC Members and Staff

- Continue to promote and hold events to educate the community what they can do inside or outside their homes (composting, rain barrels), and to recycle batteries, techno trash, electronics, and holiday lights.
 - Battery & Techno Trash (2nd Sat. Of Odd Months)
 - EAC Members to manage event.
 - Staff to promote on social media, keep records for event, order supplies.
 - Holiday Lights
 - Staff will set up bin in November at Ingersoll Park, staff will weight at the end of the season.
 - EAC will collect lights and take them to recycling locations.
 - Education Programs
 - EAC Members Develop the program.
 - EAC works with Staff to set the date, time and location, create marketing materials.
- Continue to hold the Growing Green Awards.
 - Staff will update website, social media, order awards and any other materials.
 - Maureen and the Subcommittee will organize the application, dates, and scheduling for interviews.
- Work with Township staff to reorganize the EAC website so that it focuses on homeowner education, and develop an internal calendar coordinate communication and planning purpose.
 - Staff is working on the suggested structure of the website.
 - Internal calendar was created and accessible by the EAC and Staff.

2024 Completed Items

- Hosted session about how homeowners can save energy and money with a speaker from PECO.