

Lower Gwynedd Township
Environmental Advisory Council
Meeting Agenda
May 8, 2024, 7:00 PM
Township Building Conference Room

Zoom Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89349327034?pwd=0W58TI7rLwkPI7Yq9I1cpVHYn0Nt3u.1>

Meeting ID: 893 4932 7034 **Passcode:** 518109 **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: April 10, 2024 Meeting minutes; various reports
6. Old Business
 - a. Wrap Up - Inflation Reduction Act – Energy Tax Credit Speaker
 - b. EAC Handbook Update
7. Long Range Plan Discussion
8. Standing Items – Committee and Liaison updates
 - a. Parks & Recreation Department & Staff Liaison
 - b. Planning Commission Liaison
 - c. LGT Comprehensive Plan Liaison
9. Points of interest/General comments
 - a. Other meetings of interest
 - b. Proposal to Host We Conserve Pa 2025

Upcoming Events

- May 11th, E-Waste Recycling Day & Paper Shredding Event 8-11am, Township Building
- May 14th 8:30 Bird Walk at Treweryn Farm Trail

Next meeting: June 12, 2024

Lower Gwynedd Township

Environmental Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

April 10th, 2024

Members in Attendance:

Mark Schafer, Chair

Lisa Brown

Maureen Nunn

Brenda Doll

Rea Monaghan

Marianne Grey (via zoom)

Associate Members: Rich Valiga

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

Staff in Attendance: Sandi Feight, John Farrell

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 amended.
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: March 13th meeting minutes; various reports.**
6. **Old Business**
 - a. Inflation Reduction Act – Energy Tax Credit: Wednesday April 24th – presentation flyer has been posted on Instagram, Facebook, the Townships website, in the e-newsletter and hung in the kiosks in the parks. Hoping for a great turnout.
 - b. EAC Handbook ~ Lisa asked if the members could review her recommendations for what events and programs should be added into the handbook.
7. **Long Range Plans Items**
 - a. Action Plan – John presented the next steps for the Long Range Plan along with who will be completing the tasks. Members stated they would review the document and come back with any questions
8. **Standing Items – Committee Liaison updates**
 - a. Parks & Recreation Department & Staff Liaison report review: Sandi gave her monthly report.
 - b. Planning Commission liaison – Maureen, gave an update on the last meeting 2 lot subdivision, lot line changes and ACTS addition at Spring House Estates.
 - c. LGT Comprehensive Plan liaison – Rich, stated the last several meetings have focused on connecting the township through trails, sidewalks.
9. **Points of Interest/General Comments**
 - a. Other meetings of interest

Meeting concluded: 8:13 PM

Next Meeting: May 8th, 2024

DRAFT EAC Handbook—suggested layout for project protocols using Compost Bin workshop as an example.

1. **Title of program/project:** *Compost bin workshop/giveaway*

2. **Description of program/project:** *PowerPoint/slide presentation of key issues and steps to ensure successful composting followed by an opportunity to interact with individuals with experience/instruction/advice on several different composting approaches. Giveaway of compost bins and kitchen scraps collection container.*

(If a Power Point or slide presentation, include printout of slides and/or disk.)

3. **Dates/seasons/locations:**

4. **Budget:**

Giveaway items: 15 stationary bins @\$xx (brand); one tumbler @\$xx (brand); 10 kitchen scraps containers @\$xx (brand). Ordered from Amazon.

Raffle tickets: \$xx

5. **Program presenters/leader(s):** EAC members? Outside experts (names/organization)? How many of each?

6. **Equipment needed:** *Computer/projector and hdmi cable; chairs in the Community building for attendees; table for registering and giving out drawing tickets; tickets for raffle; table for each presenter (4).*

7. **Volunteers:** How many? What are their roles? How were they solicited? Who supervised them? etc

8. **Pre-program/project planning steps and responsible party:**

a. Set date after determining availability of space and presenters/volunteers and after EAC has approved.

b. Price out cost of giveaways; prepare spending request for BoS enough in advance to order and receive giveaways.

c. Work with twsp staff to order materials once spending is approved, also to figure out where to store items before/after the program. Note what was purchased, where it was purchased, cost, etc.

9. **Publicity/marketing:** Attach examples of what was done. Note how long in advance the materials needed to be developed. Note ways information is/could be disseminated (e-news; print news; flyers; Patch; social media; etc.

10. **Other/future considerations:** *Location in community building was great for indoor/outdoor space but power point was hard to read because of lighting. Quite a few bins were not taken— maybe get fewer next time? Expand publicity.*

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.