

**LOWER GWYNEDD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
JOINT EAC/ BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
THURSDAY, SEPTMEBER 29, 2022**

SUPERVISORS PRESENT:

Danielle A. Duckett, Chairman
Michael Twersky, Vice Chair
Janine Martin
Kathleen Hunsicker
Tessie McNeely

STAFF:

Mimi Gleason, Interim Township Manager
Jamie Worman, Assistant Township Manager
Michelle Farzetta, Assistant Secretary
Neil Stein, Solicitor

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Duckett called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. at the Lower Gwynedd Township Building and led those in attendance in the pledge of allegiance.

Lisa Brown from the EAC started by introducing the EAC members both in attendance and those not able to make it. Ms. Brown then reviewed the activities and accomplishments so far this year. Those include the revamped battery recycling, ramp cleanups, the native tree giveaway, finalizing paperwork in becoming a tree city and distributing native tree seeds at community events.

Proposed Projects for the Upcoming Year

Ms. Brown mentioned projects that they would like to work on for the upcoming year. They would like to focus on Education and Outreach programs. Informing the community with presentations or workshops on benefits of solar panels and winterizing your homes were a couple of examples. The EAC has an extensive budget for education and plans on using it in 2023.

Ms. Brown stated that they would like to institute a green award for individuals, organizations and businesses within the township. The tree giveaway was successful and they would like to look into expanding that this next year.

The EAC would also like to focus on waste reduction, such as instituting the use of single use plastics, composting food waste and better recycling. They also would like to work with the township staff and other communities to promote green building practices and green energy infrastructure, promote steps toward achieving 100% Clean Energy goals, and increase joint activities and coordination between our Bird Town and Tree City programs. Last, they would like to expand the trail system within the Township and work with other communities as appropriate.

Discussion between EAC and Board of Supervisors

Ms. Martin stated that she likes the idea of offering trainings on subjects such as solar panels and winterization for those residents that are interested. Ms. Brown stated they offered a composting

presentation during COVID and would like to encourage this among the community. Mr. Twersky suggested working composting in with the tree giveaway.

Composting - Ms. Duckett inquired if there are composting limitations due to us not doing our own trash collection. Ms. Worman responded that we have an agreement with Barnside and the Northern Montgomery County Recycling Commission to bring yard waste to their location in Schwenksville. They will also give residents compost. There was also discussion regarding encouraging residents to use companies that come out to your house to collect food scraps for composting.

Restaurants - Representatives from Arpeggio (Mary) and Il Giardino (Robert) attended. They are concerned about the requirements to use single use plastics. Restaurants are still dealing with supply chain issues. They also stated that the single use plastic products are hard to find, are more expensive and do not hold up, as they leak and break. It was suggested by Robert that maybe restaurants could offer a nominal discount if customers brought their own containers for leftovers. This would only be permitted for those that eat in, not for take-out due to Department of Health regulations. This idea was well received by both the BOS and EAC. It was decided that Lisa Brown would reach out to other restaurants to see if they would be interested in participating in this initiative. Staff will then put a memo out to residents letting them know of this option.

Lower Gwynedd Business Association (LGBA)- Melinda Wolff asked about the LGBA. Do they exist anymore? Ms. Hunsicker stated that they are going through some changes right now. Covid hit them hard. Ms. Gleason stated that information regarding this subject will be going out in this week's Manager's report.

EAC and the Planning Commission - Currently there is no ordinance that requires or encourages builders to use green materials. Mr. Stein has informed the EAC that they cannot require more than what the PA code calls for. When plans get to the PC, they are complete and under review for recommendation to the BOS. What other townships have done is work with developers and engineers to make recommendations in the planning stages. Once this starts to happen then those practices start to be implemented when plans are being completed. Ms. Duckett stated that it is a priority within the B&Z committee to encourage these practices moving forward. Maureen Nunn serves on both the PC and the EAC. She would like for the EAC and the PC to work together and influence builders prior to plans being finalized. Mr. Stein offered to sit with them and discuss their options and share what other municipalities are doing to be green. Everyone agreed that this would be a great idea. They will contact Neil and choose a time to meet.

Moving forward into 2023 - The EAC would like to start planning events and projects for 2023, but do not want to invest time to then have the BOS reject it. Both Mr. Twersky and Ms. Gleason suggested that they put together a list of priorities. Submit those ideas to the BOS or to Ms. Worman and Ms. Gleason. They will then be reviewed and decided which initiatives would be best. Mr. Twersky suggested choosing one per quarter and make a budget request. The EAC is one of many commissions and boards that need to be supported. Do not be too ambitious, keep things simple and finite to reach goals. Ms. McNeely does not want them to be discouraged, they are passionate about what they are

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doing. She would like any misunderstandings to be worked out now so they can be successful moving forward.

Mr. Twersky suggested not doing a plastic bag ban, as it will cost businesses and residents too much money. Try to focus on items that cost less and still reach a goal. Suggestions made would be energy assessments of homes, energy conservation. Promote the bring your own container initiative or a compost event. Composting yourself is hard, but we can offer a training event or compost containers for those interested. In the past the rain barrel event was well received, just like the tree giveaway. We could offer that project again and educate those who are interested. It was also suggested to collaborate with other EAC's.

Clean Energy Ordinance- The purpose of this ordinance is to help reduce our carbon footprint. A task force will be created to assist us in reaching our goals. This task force has not yet been created, but it will be soon to help us reach our clean energy goals.

Ms. Duckett thanked everyone for joining. Meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Farzetta
Assistant Secretary