

Lower Gwynedd Township

Environmental Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

January 8th, 2025

Members in Attendance:

Mark Schafer, Chair (Zoom)

Brenda Doll

Rea Monaghan, Vice Chair

Lisa Brown

Maureen Nunn

Marianne Grey (Zoom)

Associate Members: Rich Valiga, Suzanne Smith

Board Of Supervisors Liaison: Tessie McNeely (Zoom)

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 meeting minutes** – minutes approved as submitted.
3. **Request to move items from Consent Agenda to Regular Agenda, and any other item to be considered as part of the Regular Agenda** – nothing on consent agenda to be moved up. Maureen would like to add Bird Flu to New Business. Lisa would like to discuss Recycling Republic Services. Rea would like to discuss RF-100 and the Public Works building development.
4. **Approval of Regular Agenda** – approved with added items.
5. **Consent Agenda:** prior Meeting Minutes, Deer Management Update
6. **Election of Vice Chair** – This was tabled until the Board of Supervisors appoints new members. Members whose terms ended at the end of 2024 can still sit on the council until a decision is made.
7. **Old Business-**
 - a. Bird town Update – Steve had an update, however, was not able to attend the meeting.
 - b. Deer Management Update – There was a report attached to the packet for the members to review. Maureen gave a brief report. Asked if the police keep records for deer vs vehicle accidents. Suggested to educate residents on deer mating season, encourage deer resistant plans and planting closer to homes and to use repellents. Suzanne was tasked with putting some bullet points together for the newsletter. It was also suggested to invite someone from Upper Dublin to come and speak about their program.

- c. Going Green Award Presentation at the January 28 Board of Supervisors Meeting-Maureen would like the EAC members to be there and show support and then a follow-up meeting to discuss what went right and what went wrong.
- d. We Conserve Membership-the minimum membership fee is \$295. Purchasing a membership shows support for the organization and allows for discounted-free registration fees to some of their programs. The EAC will recommend to the BOS to purchase the membership for the year.
- e. Monthly Meeting Schedule: It was suggested last year to incorporate more topic-based workshops to allow for the members to have more input and allow for more in-depth discussions and developing ideas to move forward.
 - i. February – Single Use Plastic (planning meeting): create a plan for round table discussion at the April meeting, to include how to reach out to the business and community outreach. The plan would need to be shared with the Board of Supervisors with approval.
 - ii. March – Regular Meeting
 - iii. April – Single Use Plastic Community Round Table Discussion
 - iv. May – Regular Meeting

8. Standing Items – Committee and Liaison updates

- a. Parks & Recreation Department & Staff Liaison report review
 - i. Review 2025 Calendar-battery recycling/techno trash on Saturday, 1/11, pending snowstorm and the staff recommend cancelling the event. September collection date is the same as Fall Fest and it was suggested that date not be advertised.
- b. Planning Commission Liaison- Maureen reported there has been a zoning change proposed for a 5 story, 360-unit high rise apartment complex, above retail space with 10% workforce housing included. Workforce housing is supplemented apartments with only allowing the charge of 30% of the income for rent. Zoning would change from MF3 to Mixed Use which would allow this type of project. A traffic study would need to be done. About 100 people showed up to voice their concerns about this building project and zoning change at the last meeting. There were setback concerns, school concerns, police manpower and fire concerns.
- c. LG Comprehensive Plan Liaison - Claire Warner presented to the BOS on December 10th about the plan update and some of the comments during the public meeting. The BOS had a fair number of questions about the changes. The steering committee meeting is set up for January 14th, which will incorporate many of the comments from the Open House, and then they will finalize a final plan and an adoption for May 2025.

9. Points of Interest/General Comments

- a. Bird Flu – 200 snow geese were found deceased in this area due to being exposed to this flu. Mark will send an email to Steve looking for recommendations.
- b. Republic Services – the website and newsletter are not updated with the latest information on recycling. Sandi explained that she had reached out to Republic for new information to be shared on the social media outlets and I only just received information that week.
- c. RF100- Rea wants to establish a workshop at one of the monthly meetings to discuss this. EAC will start putting together recommendations for the new Public Works building.

Meeting concluded: 8:09 PM

Next Meeting: February 12th, 2025