

Lower Gwynedd Township EAC Meeting Minutes

June 10 ,2026

Township Building Conference Room

Members in Attendance: Robert Sawyer, Rea Monaghan and Maureen Nunn

Members Virtual: Brenda Doll

Associate Members: Steven Saffier

Staff in Attendance: Morgan High, Program Director and Andrea Brockway, Board of Supervisor

Call to Order

Mr. Sawyer called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

Approval of June 10 ,2026 Meeting Minutes

The June 10, 2026 minutes were approved.

Tree Giveaway

Ms. High reported that she had replicated the 2024 survey in Google Forms for the upcoming tree giveaway event. Ms. Doll noted that she would be viewing and ordering the trees in late July or August, after which she would communicate the species selections to Ms. High for upload to the survey so residents could choose their preferred trees.

Ms. High noted that she had extended the event window by approximately 30–45 minutes and added 15-minute gaps between time slots as a buffer. Another member suggested keeping the original time slot structure, noting that the gaps had not historically been necessary. After brief discussion, the group agreed to revert to the original half-hour time slot format.

The question of volunteer staffing was raised. Mr. Sawyer asked whether high school volunteers had been arranged. A member confirmed that in previous years, outreach had been sent to the Key Club, Environmental Club, and National Honor Society. It was agreed this outreach would be repeated. Ms. High indicated she would confirm with Public Works whether this was a mandatory event for staff, as that would determine how many additional volunteers were needed. The group agreed that three EAC members at the table would be ideal.

A discussion around the Google Form's limitations was raised. A member explained that the free version of Google Forms does not cap sign-ups per item, and that an add-in had

been purchased in prior years to enforce limits. Ms. High agreed to obtain and apply that add-in.

The group also briefly discussed mulch sourcing. Ms. High indicated she could order mulch through a vendor her organization already has an account with, which would simplify billing. Ms. Doll confirmed that in prior years approximately three pallets of bagged mulch had been ordered. The group agreed to Ms. High coordinating the mulch order. The group also discussed possibly reducing the total number of trees from 300 to approximately 250, and including more smaller trees and shrubs in the selection.

Recycling Drives and Recap of Republic Service Presentation

The group noted an upcoming e-cycle event, and briefly discussed the topic of textile recycling. Mr. Sawyer had done preliminary research and noted that while some businesses accept textiles, there is an important distinction between donation for reuse versus donation for recycling. The group agreed that operating a dedicated textile recycling stop at existing drive events would be logistically complex and potentially too confusing for residents.

Instead, the group favored a simpler approach: a one-time communication—such as an email blast—sharing a map or list of local textile recycling drop-off locations. Ms. Monaghan referenced a company called HelpC (helpc.com), which is specific to municipal programs and has a built-in map feature. The group agreed this could be the basis of the communication, without adding the information as a permanent feature on the township website, as that would require ongoing maintenance.

Going Green Awards

Mr. Sawyer recapped the prior month's discussion and confirmed that the Going Green Award nomination process would continue as in previous years, including accepting nominations from the public. Ms. High confirmed that a nomination announcement had been posted on June 26th, and the group agreed that an additional blast would go out in late July, with nominations remaining open through August.

A significant portion of the discussion focused on the eligibility of current and former EAC members for nomination. Mr. Sawyer expressed discomfort with nominating current EAC members, citing concerns about the appearance of the committee recognizing its own members and the potential for favoritism. The group acknowledged that the existing rules prohibit current EAC members from being nominated but are silent on former members and associate members.

The specific case of nominating Spring House Tavern—associated with a current EAC member—was discussed. The group generally agreed that because the nomination would be for the establishment's composting program (an activity predating the member's EAC involvement), it was appropriate. Mr. Sawyer stated he was comfortable with the nomination moving forward, provided it went through the standard interview and documentation process.

After considerable dialogue, the group agreed on a proposed rule amendment: former EAC members would become eligible for nomination after a one-year waiting period following their departure from the committee, and the activity being nominated must be unrelated to their EAC service. This amendment was discussed as a sensible addition and will be incorporated into the formal rules.

Ms. Nunn also noted that a contact at the Lower Gwynedd Business Association (a subdivision of the Greater Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce) had been identified—Nicole at The Chamber—for the purpose of promoting the Going Green Award to local businesses. Because in-person chamber meetings do not resume until September 23rd, Ms. Nunn planned to prepare written materials highlighting the marketing benefits of the award for businesses, to be distributed through the chamber's newsletter.

Additionally, the group briefly discussed the Going Green Award subcommittee structure. It was confirmed that interviews should be completed before the October EAC meeting so that the full council can vote on recipients at that meeting. The nomination deadline listed on the township website is September 1st.

Plastic Bag Ban Implementation

A letter drafted collaboratively between members had been sent to the manager at Giant approximately two weeks prior. No response had been received at the time of the meeting.

The group also discussed Plastic Free July, an international initiative that originated in Australia in 2011 and has since grown to tens of millions of participants across more than 190 countries. Ms. High noted she had found a day-by-day interactive calendar from the initiative's website that she planned to share on social media. Mr. Sawyer supported the effort, noting its low cost and its value as an awareness tool. The group agreed that a social media post and a mention in the mid-July newsletter would be appropriate.

Fall Programming and Earth Day 2027

Ms. High confirmed that the EAC is registered for a table at Fall Fest. She requested that EAC members communicate their needs (materials, supplies, etc.) as early as possible,

noting that the first two weeks of September are very busy. Ms. High will send logistics information in August.

Mr. Saffier confirmed he would be present at Fall Fest representing the Bird Town program and would bring Bird Town-specific literature, yard signs, and table materials. The group discussed the possibility of giving away plugs of native plants or seed packets at the event, as had been done at a prior Pike Fest. Ms. Monaghan agreed to check on plant availability from nearby nurseries.

The group discussed making the table interactive by holding a raffle for a compost bin. QR codes laminated on materials were proposed as a way to direct visitors to EAC programs digitally, replacing paper handouts. Ms. High indicated that the township's EAC webpage is currently being updated by the website team, and that new QR codes would be generated once the updated pages are live.

Other fall events noted include the fall shredding event, an e-cycle event (tentatively October 22nd or 23rd at the township building), and a potential compost seminar for businesses in coordination with the Chamber of Commerce, which may be pushed to early 2027 depending on scheduling.

Inform Residents of the Availability of Green Energy Options

Ms. Sawyer noted that the RF 100 initiative—a renewable energy effort that had been mentioned by the Board of Supervisors in the past—remains an open item for the EAC. Ms. High indicated that a meeting was scheduled with Mr. Farrell on Monday, and that a list of actionable items the EAC could undertake would be presented at the next meeting. The group briefly noted that prior discussions with a township official had included reference to state-level legislation affecting green energy options.

Conduct Educational Events

No separate discussion. Educational events were noted as being integrated into the individual agenda topics throughout the meeting.

Bird Walks/Bird Town

Mr. Saffier reported that the fall bird walk schedule had been distributed. He noted that Bird Town signs had been paid for and would be picked up the following week in Buckingham, after which he would coordinate with Public Works on sign placement logistics. He asked Ms. High to notify him when a Public Works representative would be available at the township building.

Mr. Saffier also reported that a permanent sign at the Purple Martin house is expected in August, pending follow-up with the game commission. A temporary sign would be installed in the interim.

Mr. Saffier highlighted the Bird City Network (birdcity.org), an international platform led by the American Bird Conservancy that aggregates bird-friendly community programs across the country and internationally. He noted that Pennsylvania's program is the largest in the country, now encompassing 107–108 municipalities. Mr. Saffier is in the process of updating Lower Gwynedd's community profile on the site with descriptions, achievements, and photos. The site links back to the township and EAC websites.

Trail Stewardship Liaison/Invasives

Mr. Sawyer acknowledged that the issue of invasive species is complex and long-term in nature. He expressed interest in identifying a speaker on the topic—possibly from DCNR or the Blue Bird Alliance, which had hosted a session at Germantown Academy in March—to help educate EAC members and, in turn, township residents. He suggested the most practical near-term approach would be identifying the most damaging invasive species and focusing removal efforts on those, rather than attempting a broad initiative.

The group also discussed the No-Mow May concept. Mr. Sawyer relayed findings from a conversation with Pat DePaul of Springfield Township, who serves as a liaison for their EAC. Springfield has been running a No-Mow May program for five to six years with up to 100 participants. Mr. DePaul acknowledged that the environmental benefit is debatable but that the program's primary value is awareness and education. Springfield does not require signs to be returned and keeps participation records on a spreadsheet. Mr. Sawyer noted that any implementation in Lower Gwynedd would require board approval, as the township's ordinance limits grass height.

Ms. Doll suggested that a more impactful alternative might be a program modeled after Whitpain Township's Sustainable Property Program, which certifies properties across multiple categories including native plants and pollinators, stormwater reduction, and water conservation. Mr. Saffier noted that Bird Town already has a comparable Bird Habitat Recognition Program that incorporates similar criteria. The group agreed that promoting existing certification programs—including Bird Town's—might be more meaningful than No-Mow May alone. A member agreed to share a link to Whitpain's program for the group's review.

Board of Supervisors

Ms. Brockway reported on the June 23rd Board of Supervisors meeting. Key highlights included:

- The Board approved the revised 2045 Comprehensive Land Use Plan.
- A text amendment to the zoning ordinance for the MF-3 district was approved, but the associated map amendment was not. The applicant had sought approval of both simultaneously but cited a pending expiration of the property purchase agreement as a constraint. The applicant is now required to submit an updated traffic study and a summary of the revised conditional use plan before the map amendment is reconsidered.
- A request to remove 804 Swedesford Road from the historic resource map was approved.

Planning Commission

Ms. Nunn reported briefly on a Planning Commission matter involving 1217 North Bethlehem Pike, where three townhouses are proposed. The bulk of the commission's discussion centered on trash pickup logistics, including can placement and access for collection vehicles. The matter was noted as not particularly EAC-focused.

Parks & Recreation

Ms. High noted that the fall newsletter—which is mailed to all township residents—is being finalized for an end-of-August print deadline. She indicated that content from the EAC would need to be submitted within two to three weeks. Items already included are the tree giveaway and the recycling event. The group briefly discussed whether information about native plant giveaways at Fall Fest could be included, pending confirmation of plant availability.

Points of Interest/General Comments

Ms. Nunn noted that around October 27th, the EPA releases a full outreach package related to lead awareness, and suggested the EAC piggyback on this by including lead-related information in a post-October newsletter or communication. Ms. Monaghan highlighted that homes painted between 1940 and 1978 may contain lead paint, posing a health risk particularly for children during renovation activities. Ms. Monaghan also mentioned how the EAC and Lower Gwynedd Township handled outreach in the past.

Mr. Sawyer reminded the group of the upcoming technology trash collection event, with the last concert-associated drop scheduled for July 22nd. Ms. Nunn requested that Ms. Doll set up a sign-up for the August 15th techno-trash event, consistent with prior years,

including a collection box in the township building lobby. Ms. Doll confirmed she would handle this.

The meeting was adjourned.