

Lower Gwynedd Township EAC Meeting Minutes

August 12, 2026

Township Building Conference Room

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

Associate Members: Lisa Brown, Richard Valiga

Staff in Attendance: Morgan High, Program Director

Call to Order

Mr. Sawyer called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM

Approval of July 8, 2026 Meeting Minutes

The July 8, 2026 minutes were approved.

Tree Giveaway

Ms. High confirmed that mulch was ordered from Holly Days. A total of 275 bags were ordered, with delivery scheduled for Friday, October 2nd.

Ms. High, Mr. Sawyer, and Ms. Doll visited Tree Authority to tag the trees and shrubs for the giveaway. Ms. High and Mr. Doll are working together to prepare the registration and website for the program launch on September 1st.

Going Green Awards

The board discussed the selection process for the Going Green Awards. Ms. Nunn explained that three nominees would traditionally be interviewed by a subcommittee before the full committee votes on the winners. The board discussed whether to continue using specific award categories or move to general rankings of first, second, and third place. Previous categories included education, community outreach, and sustainable practices.

The Board voted to select one Going Green Award winner this year.

The Board also discussed whether interviews would be necessary, as many members are already familiar with the nominees.

The group discussed the lack of nominations received by the September 15th deadline despite marketing efforts. The board considered expanding outreach to local businesses through the Business Association.

Potential nominees, including Spring House Tavern and **Harth**. They also discussed potentially nominating an individual who had previously been nominated but had not received the award.

Plastic Bag Ban Implementation

The Board discussed the status of the letter sent to Giant in June 2026. No response had been received as of the meeting.

The group discussed implementing a plastic bag reduction initiative by providing businesses with reusable bag stickers rather than establishing a mandatory ordinance. The Board agreed to pursue the initiative as a voluntary program.

The Board suggested following up with Spring House Tavern to obtain feedback on the sticker concept and determine whether the stickers could provide an advertising benefit to participating businesses. An established a target implementation date of January 1, 2027, with the specific implementation approach still to be determined.

Fall Programming and Earth Day 2027

Discussion around Fall Fest activities. Ms. Monaghan will contact a nursery regarding the possibility of offering plant plugs at the event.

Ms. Monaghan identified supplies that will be needed, including brown paper, cups, and spray bottles. She will provide Ms. High with a list of supplies and the plant plug invoice for ordering. Ms. High will ensure that the necessary supplies, tables, chairs, and tent are in place prior to setup.

There was also a discussion on battery collection logistics, particularly the challenges associated with shipping lithium batteries due to FedEx restrictions. While Service Solutions can accept lithium batteries, FedEx will not ship them. Alternative options discussed included personal delivery or using Staples as a collection location. Staples now charges \$2.99 per pound.

The Board agreed to order at least 10 collection boxes for alkaline batteries for the December recycling event. The group will promote alkaline battery collection while the logistics for lithium battery collection remain under review.

Inform Residents of the Availability of Green Energy Options

Mr. Sawyer informed everyone about potential federal funding opportunities for electric vehicle charger upgrades. Lower Gwynedd Township will research the grant opportunity and determine whether it could be utilized by the Township.

Conduct Educational Events

Ms. High discussed updates to various Township programs, including the launch of the new recreation program website and booklet on August 1st, featuring fall and winter activities.

Bird Walks/Bird Town

No separate discussion.

Trail Stewardship Liaison/Invasives

No separate discussion.

Board of Supervisors

No separate discussion.

Planning Commission

No separate discussion.

Parks & Recreation

No separate discussion.

Points of Interest/General Comments

Mr. Sawyer proposed a pilot program to recognize residents with native gardens through a photo submission process. The group discussed developing specific criteria for the program and potentially creating a QR code sign to provide participants with educational information about native plants.

Ms. Brown also mentioned researching textile recycling options after discovering a new textile recycling bin located between two parking lots near the post office.

Mr. Valiga discussed concerns regarding the increasing deer population in the Township. He noted that deer damage to landscaping has become significant and could potentially contribute to vehicle accidents and injuries. He suggested exploring humane capture and relocation methods and discussed whether the Township may need to advocate for separate deer management from Philadelphia's deer control area.

Ms. Nunn reported that North Wales Water Association's PFAS levels had increased from approximately 1–2 parts per trillion to 20 parts per trillion, raising concerns regarding Pennsylvania's regulatory limits of approximately 14–18 parts per trillion. The Council

agreed that Ms. Nunn could contact the water association as a resident to gather additional information regarding the PFAS levels.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:42 p.m.