Lower Gwynedd Township EAC Meeting Minutes

October 14 ,2026
Township Building Conference Room

Members in Attendance: Robert Sawyer, Rea Monaghan, Karleigh Burns., Brenda Doll and Maureen Nunn

Associate Members: Richard Valiga and Steve Saffier

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

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

Approval of September 9, 2026 Meeting Minutes
Minutes were approved subject to a correction regarding who had contacted state representatives.

Tree Giveaway

The tree giveaway was successful overall, although there were more no-shows than usual. Pawpaw trees and shrubs were particularly popular, prompting discussion about offering a greater variety of shrubs and providing more educational information about less familiar species. Suggestions included promoting educational materials earlier and adding calendar reminders to participant registrations. Ms. High will investigate whether the signup system can automatically add participants' selected time slots to their calendars as a reminder.

Recycling Drives

The battery collection will be held in conjunction with the December Techno Trash event. Batteries must be individually bagged, and collection containers must be weighed. Volunteers will need clear instructions, and at least three volunteers may be necessary to assist with the collection. Mr. Sawyer requested that three EAC members be present at the event.

Going Green Awards

Ms. Nunn presented Mr. High with the Going Green Award letter. Ms. High will finalize the letter once the January presentation date is confirmed, transfer it to Township letterhead, obtain the required signatures, and mail the completed letter via U.S. mail. Ms. High will order plaque.

Plastic Bag Ban Implementation

The Township will not pursue a plastic bag ban under the current Board of Supervisors. The committee discussed alternative approaches, including voluntary recognition for businesses that reduce plastic bag use, a potential Plastic-Free July campaign, and recycling plastic film through a possible partnership with local retailers. Giant previously provided information about its Trex bag-to-benches recycling program but has not responded to the committee's inquiry regarding efforts to reduce plastic bag use. EAC members will identify the sustainability-program contact in Conshohocken and obtain their contact information to inquire about the program's implementation and success.

Fall Programming and Earth Day 2027

The committee discussed reducing plant giveaways at Fall Fest while improving advance promotion and providing guidance on planting multiple native plugs.

Inform Residents of the Availability of Green Energy Options

No separate discussion.

Conduct Educational Events

January 2027 PECO will be coming out to educate residents on energy and electricity.

Bird Walks/Bird Town

Birdtown Pennsylvania received a complimentary screening license for The Extraordinary Caterpillar, valid from January through June. The committee will determine a date to host a community screening for residents during the license period.

Trail Stewardship Liaison/Invasives

The committee continued discussions regarding a proposed resident recognition program for native pollinator gardens. Outstanding items include establishing eligibility requirements, determining a minimum garden size, developing sign design, setting renewal requirements and frequency, and determining how to address invasive plants elsewhere on a participating property. Further discussion is needed before the program can be finalized.

Board of Supervisors

Township reports covered the road-salt supply agreement, and a trail easement survey near Meadow Creek Circle. The township is considering an ordinance amendment addressing data centers as a conditional use, with attention to setbacks, utilities, water use, noise, traffic, emergency response, and decommissioning. No application was reported.

Planning Commission

Planning Commission updates included a parking lot at Gwynedd Mercy and proposals involving 813 Plymouth Road and the BET development. PennDOT review remains relevant to nearby road work

Parks & Recreation

No separate discussion.

Points of Interest/General Comments

Ms. Nunn discussed lead exposure, particularly in homes built before 1978, and the serious risks to children and noted that National Lead Poisoning Awareness Week is 10/25/26 through 10/31/26. She will send lead-safety articles and information to the group for a year-round lead-awareness effort.

Ms. Nunn also commented how she spoke with a representative at North Wales Water Authority about the higher PFOS noted in their recent water quality report. This representative assured her that the levels are within acceptable levels and explained how the higher levels were due to that this report included testing of underground water whereas previous reports included measuring of only surface water.

Mr. Sawyer noted the following issues concerning the Wissahickon Creek for the EAC's information:

- Wissahickon Trails is asking for volunteers to assist in collecting water samples as part of their snap shot, tomorrow 10/14/26, of salt levels in the creek.
- State officials are asking people not to eat the fish in the creek due to high levels of PFOS found in the fish.
- Mr. Sawyer has forwarded information to the EAC, from Wissahickon Trails, on the consortium established to address the high levels of phosphorus in the creek.

Mr. Sawyer has revise the meeting-minutes format for the next meeting by separating event logistics from issue and program discussions

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.