

**EASTTOWN TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES**

Thursday, February 23, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm by Chairperson Cara Rash. Environmental Advisory Councilmembers in attendance were Gary Ellis, Kate Goddard Doms, Cara Rash, Radha Pyati, and Michael LeWitt. Also attending were Supervisors Beth D'Antonio and Alex Bosco and David Fiorenza, Township Finance Director.

Consideration of Draft January 26, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes.

The January minutes were approved with a motion, second, one friendly amendment, and 5-0 vote.

Presentation by Pete Goodman on Road Salt.

Mr. Pete Goodman of Valley Forge Trout Unlimited gave a slide presentation on salt concentrations in Valley Creek. He noted that Valley Creek has been designated a Class A Wild Brown Trout Fishery. There are elevated salt levels in Valley Creek and in the Brandywine River near Chadds Ford. He is asking the townships for information on how much salt or brine is applied to roads and has filed a right-to-know request to the Pennsylvania Turnpike for the same information. He shared an informative brochure and gave the EAC permission to link it to the EAC website and print it for Earth Day. The group discussed brine as an alternative to road salt. Brine uses much less salt and creates a layer that prevents the snow from sticking to the road. Brine application usually needs to be proactive – it should be applied before the storm. The Township (Twp) has investigated acquiring a brining truck but it is limited by staffing and timing.

EAC 2022 Annual Report Review.

Secretary Pyati presented the 2022 Annual Report and several minor edits. The Report was accepted with a motion, second, and 5-0 vote. It was suggested that EAC could present highlights of the Report to the BOS, and the second March meeting is a possible date. It will be conveyed to Township Manager Don Curley.

Consideration of a Presentation by Phil Witmer from Bird Towns PA.

The EAC discussed inviting Phil Witmer, an Associate Member of the Tredyffrin EAC, to give a 20-minute presentation about gaining the Bird Town designation. Several townships have earned this designation: Tredyffrin, Radnor, Schuylkill, Kennett, and Newtown. He is available on the date of the March EAC meeting, and he will be invited to present.

Consideration of an Intern for the EAC.

Secretary Pyati presented the idea of working with a high school intern to assist with document organization, newsletter, flyers, and communications with Conestoga families. Supervisors D'Antonio and Bosco indicated that this matter required the attention of the Board of Supervisors, because it is an appointed position and all of the Twp's authorities, boards, and commissions should have access to working with interns. They will do some due diligence on how to handle this appropriately.

Consideration of Hosting a Table at the YMCA Earth Day Festival.

The EAC passed a motion with a second and a 5-0 vote to host a table. The Twp can provide certification of insurance as required, and the EAC can register a table.

Consideration of a Paint Recycling Day.

The EAC discussed paint recycling – current recycling locations in Chester County are far from the Twp. Chairperson Rash will pursue more information.

Everything Easttown Article Review.

Articles for the Everything Easttown magazine were discussed. Vice Chair Ellis will send the street trees article to Susan Greene. The road salt article written by Councilmember Doms last year was never published, so it will be revised and included.

Liaison Report – Board of Supervisors.

Chairperson Rash reported on the BOS. Don Curley has been appointed Township Manager. Among other issues, the Easttown Citizen's Advisory Committee (ECAC) has placed a six-month pause on the Twp building plan while a space analysis takes place.

Liaison Report – Parks and Recreation.

Councilmember LeWitt reported on P&R as follows. There was discussion of: the (annual) Easter Egg Hunt, which will be on March 25, 2023. Invitations for participation will go out to local schools and groups (scouts). Flower Planting around Hilltop will be done by the Weeders, a local gardening group. A concert is planned for sometime in July. There was discussion of a grant application, though there is not, as yet, a specific project nor an in-house grant writer for this. The deadline for application is April 4, 2023, so this may be deferred for this year. A suggestion was made that the grant could be used to develop trails, possibly in Spring Knoll or around Darby Creek. This year will be the 30th year of Field of Dreams, and a party is being planned, possibly on or around July 4th, 2023.

At the P&R meeting, Councilmember LeWitt raised the topic of the bench donation from Trex. There was discussion of the location, including Hilltop, Johnson Park, or somewhere else. Additionally, there was concern about uniformity of benches as, at Hilltop there are metal, wooden, and Trex benches. This will be discussed further.

The EAC discussed the Trex bench as well. Supervisor Bosco noted that people who sit on the existing benches often get splinters from the worn wood. Director Fiorenza will be escorting insurance carriers around the park, and this is an issue from that point of view. The EAC consensus was to replace the benches soon, and estimating the Twp's rate of recycling and winning new benches, the EAC asked Councilmember LeWitt to tell P&R that all three benches will be earned by March 2024, defining a limited amount of time that the appearance of the benches will be nonuniform.

Liaison Report – Planning Commission.

Vice Chair Ellis reported that approval was granted for the firehall demolition and replacement and to the Old Berwyn demolition and reconstruction.

Liaison Report – ROSERP.

Vice Chair Ellis reported that the next ROSERP Task Force meeting is on March 15.

Liaison Report – ECAC.

Chairperson Rash reported that ECAC has placed a six-month pause on the Twp building project. The ECAC also discussed revenue sources for the Twp. Last year they reviewed all fees in comparison with

other twps. The cap on a new building fee has been raised from \$9,500 to 2% of the value of the building.

Rain Garden Program Discussion.

Councilmember Doms reported that the program is proceeding well. She, Councilmember Rash, and Easttown resident Ruth Mooney (who participated in rain garden planning and construction while a Tredyffrin resident) have had multiple meetings with the interested homeowner on Pennsylvania Avenue. Consultants from Upper Darby and a landscaper have visited as well. Ms. Mooney has a plan for the plantings and has indicated that mature plants would be preferable to seedlings, to give it an attractive appearance as an early demonstration of the program. She will be asked to provide the plant list to Director Fiorenza so bids can be obtained.

Street Tree Planning and Implementation Discussion.

Vice Chair Ellis reported on several activities. He did a walkthrough of the area with Bill Hartman, resident of Old Berwyn and volunteer on this project, and Bill Friedrich of the Historic Commission. He also met with Township Manager Curley. Next steps include assembling a complete package describing the project for the BOS.

The location of the program was discussed. The Twp is submitting grants to add sidewalks during 2024-25 to the U-Corridor: Bridge Avenue south to First Avenue, east to Waterloo Rd, north to Lancaster Avenue. This is the same area for which the street tree program was originally planned. But planting trees along streets that will soon have sidewalks installed creates the risk that the trees may need to be removed. The EAC discussed identifying specific spots that would not have sidewalks, waiting until after the 2024 grant decisions, or sidestepping the U-corridor to plant trees on other streets in Old Berwyn that would still have good visibility as a demonstration project. Ultimately the idea of seeking other spots gained consensus.

The EAC moved with a second and 5-0 to approve the attached Concept Plan Term Sheet.

DCVA Stream Cleanup Location and Details.

The BOS has approved the next stream cleanup on Saturday, April 15. Three sites will be cleaned: Hilltop Park, Gwilym Circle, and Sussex Place. DCVA requires a donation of \$150 to support the event with materials, which was approved last year by the BOS; this year Chairperson Rash will work with Director Fiorenza to accomplish this. A police presence is requested at the intersection of Newtown and Beaumont Roads on the day of the cleanup. The collected trash will be left at the sites and Public Works will pick it up. Chairperson Rash will pursue a donation of breakfast items. The event can now be advertised.

Further ideas of a street cleanup were discussed. Sugartown Road from Leopard Rd to Wayne has been adopted by the Main Line Unitarian Church. Vice Chair Ellis will ask them if they are interested in working together on a cleanup. Waterloo Road is adopted by the Easttown Democrats.

Chester County Solid Waste Authority Grant Update Discussion.

Production of the reusable tote bags associated with the single use plastic bag ban was funded by a CCSWA grant, and those funds have not been disbursed. Director Fiorenza will submit receipts for the tote bags to the CCSWA. Other grant deadlines include a June deadline for Growing Greener and a Mid-Atlantic Hardy Plants grant typically due in February.

Final 2023 Goals.

The EAC finalized the set of 2023 goals below with a motion, second, and 5-0 vote.

- Rain garden program – continue with implementation
- Street tree program – continue with implementation
- A stream cleanup
- Ongoing workshops including on decarbonization efforts and a possible Repair Café event

Public Comment.

There was no public comment.

Announcements.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 23, 2023.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:48 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Radha Pyati
Secretary, Easttown EAC

Street Trees Concept Term Sheet

EASTTOWN TOWNSHIP STREET TREES PLANTING, YEAR ONE

- Starting this year, Easttown is beginning an ongoing, long term street tree planting program.
- The Township's 2023 budget includes funds for a demonstration street tree planting program. It will include the installation of 20 native street trees within the Old Berwyn village residential neighborhood.
- From property owners' standpoint, participating in this tree planting effort is entirely voluntary. We are enthusiastic about this project and wish to encourage property owners' voluntary expressions of interest.
- We plan to select roughly two inches caliper trees. The Township will accept full responsibility for tree planting but then will expect residents to provide initial maintenance (mostly watering).
- Ideally the trees will be planted in a concentrated area along adjoining streets in the Old Berwyn neighborhood. The objective is to maximize visual impact and demonstrate the value of this program to Easttown residents and visitors.
- For 2023, we will need to avoid street sections that are designated for new sidewalk installation. Ideally, and hypothetically, street trees could be planted in those areas later.