

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

Thursday, February 24, 2022

The regular meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm by Chairperson Cara Rash. Environmental Advisory Councilmembers in attendance were Gary Ellis, Heather Hill, Cara Rash, and Radha Pyati. Also attending were Supervisor Michael Wacey; and Eugene Briggs, Township Manager. Councilmember Kate Goddard Doms was excused.

Consideration of January 27, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes.

The January minutes were approved 4-0 with a motion and second.

Receive Tree Canopy Loss Presentation.

Mr. Bill Hartman, of 57 Knox Avenue, Berwyn, gave a presentation on tree canopy loss to the EAC; the presentation slides were included in the agenda. Discussion touched on several aspects of tree canopy loss. It is not certain whether any of the tree removals in the presentation occurred due to disease or PECO removal. The best place to start this program is likely in the Village of Berwyn. A neighbor-to-neighbor approach might be effective, especially because many trees worth preserving are on private property. Mr. Hartman expressed interest in working with the EAC on this effort. The EAC will take this initiative under consideration.

Consideration of 2022 Goals and Projects.

The list of goals and projects below, with associated start and end dates and approximate costs, was approved 4-0 with a motion and a second.

Goal/Project	Approximate Start-Finish Timeline	Costs
Natural resources and open space plan	Ongoing	
Educational workshops, including a native plant seed swap	Ongoing	
Plastic bag ordinance – proceeding to next steps and implementation	Ongoing, hope to complete in third quarter of 2022	\$1,250 for Chester County Solid Waste grant match (25% required)
Compost swap	Try for second quarter of 2022, or fourth quarter	
Recognizing storefronts with good environmental practices	Third quarter	
Rain garden projects – lay out preliminary plan	Third quarter	

Review Draft 2021 Annual Report.

The EAC reviewed the draft 2021 annual report produced by Secretary Radha Pyati; finalizing the report was moved, seconded, and approved with a 4-0 vote.

Review Salt Use Position Paper.

The EAC discussed the draft salt use position paper written by Councilmember Doms. Edits from Councilmembers will be sent to her, and the article will go into the Darby Creek Valley Association's newsletter. In addition to the article itself, the Council discussed using brine instead of rock salt on Twp roads. Manager Briggs will share the article with Twp Public Works Director Don Curley for his consideration.

Discussion on Articles for Next Easttown/Tredyffrin Environmental Advisory Council E-Newsletter.

The EAC discussed several ideas of articles for the next E-newsletter, such as the open space plan, the planting season, pollinators, native plants, planting a yard without grass, pesticides, light pollution. The Tredyffrin EAC is contributing an article on trees. Chairperson Rash asked Councilmembers to send her their drafts for articles by the March meeting.

Liaison Report – Board of Supervisors.

Chairperson Rash reported on the Board of Supervisors. The Darby Creek stream cleanup in April 2022 was approved. The application period is open for the new Twp Stormwater Advisory Committee. Aqua will buy the Willistown Twp sewer system.

Liaison Report – Planning Commission.

Vice Chair Ellis reported on the Planning Commission. He reviewed the status of the open space plan at their meeting and asked for their ideas on who should serve on the task force.

Liaison Report – Parks and Recreation Board.

Councilmember Hill reported on the Parks and Recreation Board. She reviewed the open space plan. The P&RB are working on several projects: July 4th, a new volleyball net at Johnson Park, and summer activities such as a concert series, movie night, battle of the bands, and slider cookoff. Discussion included asking that pesticides not be used on bees in the sand at Johnson Park; the bees are not aggressive.

Darby Creek Cleanup Update.

The Darby Creek Cleanup has been approved by the BOS. Each site has an assigned captain, and the event is advertised on the DCVA website. Eadeh will provide financial support for food and refreshments for volunteers. Dunbar Roofing may be able to support coffee and donuts.

The planned date is Saturday, April 23, 2022, with Saturday, April 30 as the rain date. The four sites to be cleaned up are all on Township-owned property and are the following:

- Hilltop Park
- Sussex, near Daventry Road
- Open space across Newtown Road from Hilltop Park
- Waynesborough (Although this site is strictly within the Crum Creek watershed, rather than Darby Creek, it is on Easttown Twp property and will be included in the cleanup. Supervisory Wacey will look into whether the Chester Ridley Crum (CRC) organization wishes to partner.)

The budget includes funding for an item for volunteers: a reusable tote bag, water bottle, or other item.

Compost Swap Program Update.

Councilmember Hill gave an update. The Trinity director will email preschool families about their interest. Pam Koch of Trinity will reach out to St. Monica's church. She has contacted the Tredyffrin EAC, who want to work together with the Easttown EAC on a location, possibly the Tredyffrin Library.

Native Plant Workshop Update.

Councilmember Hill provided an update. She has identified a few available dates at the Easttown Library. She has contacted a couple of potential speakers but no one has confirmed yet. The topic and event have to be approved by the BOS, but not necessarily the specific speaker.

Next Steps for Single-use Plastic Bag Ordinance and Chester County Solid Waste Authority Grant.

Chairperson Rash led a discussion of next steps. The items that should be presented to the BOS include the following:

- Economic impact
- How residents will be educated
- Grant specifics. How will the grant be used, what is the Twp's commitment, and can it be done with an in-kind match?

Another survey of residents was not considered necessary, given previous survey results. Chairperson Rash will put this information together and present it to the BOS.

Next Steps for 1993 Recreation, Open Space, and Environmental Resources Plan Update.

Manager Briggs noted that it may be discussed at the next BOS meeting.

Republic Services Recycling Workshop Update.

The Republic Services recycling workshop will take place on Wednesday, May 4, 2022, from 6:30 – 8:30 pm at the Easttown Library. The speaker is Dominic Fulginiti of Republic. The workshop is planned to be in person; a zoom option will be added.

Trex Recycling Contamination.

Councilmember Hill noted the ongoing problem of non-recyclable material being placed in the Trex bins. Approximately one-third of the material is non-recyclable trash rather than the appropriate recyclable plastic. The EAC discussed several solutions. Manager Briggs suggested finding a group with longer Trex experience and asking them how they addressed this problem.

Public Comment.

There was no public comment.

Upcoming Workshops and Conferences.

Chairperson Rash noted that a CRC workshop is coming soon and a virtual conference of regional EACs will be held on Saturday, February 26.

Announcements.

The next regularly scheduled meeting is Thursday, March 24, 2022, at 7:00 pm.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:38 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Radha Pyati
Secretary, Easttown EAC