

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

Thursday, March 23, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm by Councilmember Cara Rash. Environmental Advisory Councilmembers in attendance were Kate Goddard Doms, Radha Pyati, Michael LeWitt, and Cara Rash; Gary Ellis was excused. Also attending were Supervisor Beth D'Antonio; David Fiorenza, Township Finance Director; Jonathan Ewald, Assistant Township Manager; and Bill Hartman, Township resident.

Consideration of Draft February 23, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes.

The February minutes were approved with a motion, second, several friendly amendments, and 4-0 vote.

Presentation by Philip Witmer, Bird Town USA.

Philip Witmer, an Associate Member of the Tredyffrin EAC, gave a presentation on the Bird Town USA program. The program brings a bird perspective to the environmental activities of a municipality. Benefits include two free street signs, a newsletter, and a Facebook page. Other possible activities could include bird tourism and a house/yard tour of registered properties. The first level of participation is the Green level, followed by Bronze, Silver, and Gold. There is no cost to participate. The four steps that a municipality does in order to participate are the following:

- 1) form a committee for Bird Town, which can be the EAC itself or a subcommittee of the EAC
- 2) pass a resolution in the municipality, for which Bird Town has sample language
- 3) work through the EAC, a parks committee, or a tree commission
- 4) complete the application.

The EAC thanked Mr. Witmer and expressed interest in discussing this at a later meeting.

DCVA Stream Clean Up Details.

The stream cleanup scheduled for Saturday, April 15, currently has eleven RSVPs that represent about 20 people. Flyers have been posted at the library, both post offices, the Upper Main Line YMCA, Trinity Presbyterian Church, and Pour Richards. It has been sent to Jeanne Braun of TESD for the school email blasts. Stacey Ballard has expressed a willingness to support breakfast for the volunteers, and it has been arranged with Neapolitan. Police Chief David Obzud is on board. Director Fiorenza has made the in-kind donation of \$150 for shirts, and supplies. Councilmember Rash will pick up supplies from Aurora Dize of DCVA and Chairperson Doms will pick up the breakfast on the morning of the cleanup. EAC members will email all participants before the event to confirm the meetup location.

YMCA Earth Day Festival Table Planning.

The EAC will host a table at the YMCA's Earth Day Festival on Saturday, April 22. The table will include an information sheet on the EAC, volunteer signup sheet, a poster trifold with a QR code on the bottom, some seed packets, and brochures from Back to Earth Composting and Valley Trout's salinity project. Councilmember Rash will open the table at 9 am, Vice Chair Ellis and Councilmember LeWitt will take the middle shift from 10 – 11:30 am, and Secretary Pyati will take the last shift around 11 am through 1 pm and break down the table.

Consideration and Discussion of Moving Liaison Reports to an Agenda Packet Item.

The EAC passed a motion with a second and a 4-0 vote that liaison group materials will be moved to the EAC agenda packet. For liaison groups meeting prior to the week before the EAC meeting, the EAC liaison report will be included in the agenda packet. For liaison groups meeting the week of the EAC meeting, their agendas will be included in the EAC agenda packet.

Consideration and Discussion of New EAC Chair.

Per the Board of Supervisors (BOS), the requirement in the enabling ordinance stating that the chair may not hold the position for more than two consecutive years cannot be modified without another ordinance. Thus the EAC elected a new chair. Kate Goddard Doms was nominated to serve as chair with a motion and a second and was elected with a 4-0 vote. Supervisor D'Antonio clarified that the chair need not serve as the BOS liaison and the chair role is largely about running the meetings and facilitating communication with the Township (Twp).

Street Tree Planning and Implementation Discussion.

The EAC passed a motion with a second and 4-0 vote to table the next agenda item on Liaison Reports and move to the Street Tree item. Bill Hartman, 57 Knox Ave, is working closely with Vice Chair Gary Ellis on the Street Tree Program and summarized the current status of the program. He is working on the list of tree species. He reviewed all items in the packet to be assembled for the BOS. Minor edits were suggested, and additional minor edits may emerge upon review by the Twp Solicitor and others. The following packet items were approved by the EAC with a motion, second, and 4-0, as a draft that may have minor edits afterward.

- Proposed schedule
- Map of proposed planting locations
- Bill Hartman's resume
- Draft letter to potential tree recipients
- Term sheet/concept plan
- Publicity poster for Library workshop on Thursday, June 8, 2023, at the Easttown Library
- Publicity poster for overall Street Tree Program
- Draft administrative forms

Liaison Report – Board of Supervisors.

Councilmember Rash reported on the BOS. The BOS is allowing the EAC to pursue working with a high school intern and an Associate Member designation is not necessary. The Easttown Citizens' Advisory Committee (ECAC) indicated that the Twp take a pause on a new Twp building. The Twp is considering options such as renting space or purchasing a different property.

Liaison Report – Planning Commission.

Councilmember LeWitt shared Vice Chair Ellis's report. At their March 2 meeting, he presented the EAC Street Tree Program and noted that EAC is deferring to PC on the U-corridor for sidewalk installation.

Liaison Report – ROSERP Task Force.

Councilmember LeWitt shared Vice Chair Ellis's report. Tom Comitta gave a presentation at their March 15 meeting. The next ROSERP public forum is on April 13.

Liaison Report – Watershed Partners Team.

Chairperson Doms reported that this meeting was delayed.

Liaison Report – Parks and Recreation.

Councilmember LeWitt reported on P&R. Their budget includes funding for tennis and pickleball courts and benches at Hilltop Park. They are interested in placing the new Trex bench in Johnson Park and Twp Manager Don Curley should be informed of that.

Rain Garden Program Discussion.

Councilmember Doms reported on the first rain garden, proposed at a resident's home on Pennsylvania Avenue. Director Fiorenza has ordered the plants for the first rain garden. Michael Durante has been selected as the landscaper, and the homeowner has expressed a willingness to pay the landscaper charges. The program has \$6,000 budgeted for the year. The EAC passed a motion with a second and a 4-0 vote that if the homeowner does not pay the landscaper charges, the EAC recommends permission to use funds in the budget of \$2,445.02 to pay the charges.

Councilmember Doms led a discussion of submitting a Growing Greener grant to fund a larger rain garden program. She will meet with Ruth Mooney about the grant. The grant involves informing the Pennsylvania DEP and the Chester County Soil and Conservation District. A timeline will be developed. Councilmember Rash will speak with the Darby Creek Valley Association about the possibility of a larger grant also.

Seed Library Discussion.

Councilmember Rash reported that the seed library is being restocked every week. Residents are taking seeds and the library is usually cleared out every week. Additional donations are being sought from the Mid-Atlantic Hardy Plant Society and Mostardi Nursery. The EAC may consider including a 2024 budget item to purchase seeds. The Mid-Atlantic Hardy Plant Society is willing to conduct a workshop on seeds.

Advertising of Community Environmental Events on EAC Webpage.

Councilmember Rash led a discussion of whether environmental events organized by other groups should be advertised on the EAC website on the Twp site. Director Fiorenza will put that on the BOS agenda per Supervisor D'Antonio's request and the BOS will discuss policy on this.

EAC Associate Member/Intern Discussion.

Per the BOS liaison report, the EAC will pursue working with a high school intern and Chairperson Doms will reach out to Jeanne Braun of TESD.

Community Repair Event Planning.

Chairperson Doms reported that Trinity Presbyterian Church is willing to host a community repair event and is presenting the idea to their board. There is an interest in some repair coaches. Use of the "Repair Café" name requires a \$50 payment to an international organization; in return, the Twp Repair Café can be placed on their website and branded with their logo. The EAC passed a motion with a second and 4-0 vote to authorize \$50 for payment to the Repair Café organization.

Public Comment.

There was no public comment.

Announcements.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 27, 2023.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Radha Pyati
Secretary, Easttown EAC