

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

Thursday, April 27, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Chairperson Kate Doms. Environmental Advisory Councilmembers in attendance were Gary Ellis, Michael LeWitt, Radha Pyati, and Cara Rash. Also attending were Supervisor Beth D'Antonio and David Fiorenza, Township Finance Director.

**Consideration of Draft March 23, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes.**

The March 2023 minutes were approved with a motion, second, a friendly amendment, and 4-0 vote.

**Trex Bench Color and Plaque Inscription.**

Councilmember Rash informed the EAC that for the new Trex bench, selecting black or gray is free of charge; selecting green has an upcharge of \$30.00. The new bench will be placed in Johnson Park. For the new bench, the EAC made a motion with a second and 5-0 vote to authorize \$30.00 for a rainforest green bench. The EAC also moved with a second and 5-0 vote to place the following inscription on the bench plaque: "Dedicated to the Residents of Easttown Township for their Recycling Efforts 2023" with the Easttown Twp logo on the left and the EAC logo on the right of the text. The EAC also agreed to restart a new Trex Bench challenge to collect recycling materials for another bench.

**Intern Selection.**

Secretary Pyati introduced Luke Hedlund, the Conestoga High School senior who has been selected to serve as the EAC intern for spring 2023. His official start date is Monday, May 8.

**Bird Town USA.**

Councilmember Rash updated the EAC on her conversation with Heidi Schriver about the Bird Town USA program. There is no cost to the Township (Twp) to participating, and the EAC report can be used as the same report submitted to Bird Town USA. The Twp is already conducting many of the activities that the Bird Town USA program recommends doing, and Easttown is already part of a Pennsylvania DEP bird conservation area. The Twp will receive two road signs as part of the program, and Easttown Twp will be added to their website as a participating municipality. Bird Town USA can do programs in the Twp like native plant sales and birding walks. The EAC moved with a second and 5-0 vote to proceed with a request to the BOS to consider applying for the Bird Town program. Chairperson Doms will present this at the next BOS meeting.

**Liaison Report – Board of Supervisors.**

Councilmember Rash's written liaison report presented in the agenda was accepted by the EAC.

**Liaison Report – Planning Commission.**

Vice Chair Ellis reported that the PC has discussed bike trails, notably a trail roughly parallel to Route 30, that they will take up at their next meeting.

**Liaison Report – ROSERP Task Force.**

Vice Chair Ellis reported that ROSERP held its second public workshop. Discussion centered on residents opposed to trails in the Spring Knoll area. Future meeting dates have been postponed; the next meeting is on May 17.

### **Liaison Report – Watershed Partners Team.**

Chairperson Doms' written liaison report presented in the agenda was accepted by the EAC.

### **Liaison Report – Parks and Recreation.**

Councilmember LeWitt reported on P&R. There was a full complement of committee members, as well as administrative staff and 5 community members, and several topics germane to the EAC were discussed. There will be a tranquil garden project, on the Southeastern corner of Hilltop Park, to include 5 newly purchased Adirondack chairs, as well as mulching. A zipline is to be purchased for Johnson Park, with estimates of \$22,000 and \$58,000, plus tree removal and a mulching surface (~\$7,000 additional). Liability concerns were mentioned. The run will be about 100 feet, with PVC and Azac product, and should be completed by mid-summer. \$60,000 had already been budgeted for this. New benches to replace the metal benches in Hilltop are being planned; these will be on the walking trail. The new Trex bench, and other future benches, will go to Johnson Park. The wooden benches in the playground area of Hilltop will be replaced, and relocated with metal benches. Discussion included 2 tennis courts and/or 4 pickleball courts in or around Beaumont Elementary School. Additionally, the use (or nonuse) of Hilltop soccer field by field hockey and soccer teams was mentioned, and a possible revenue source of frisbee golf was explored. Discussion of some aspects of the township meeting included concerns for better maintenance and cleaning of trails, keeping the bathrooms in Hilltop open year round, and concern about a public/private walking trail in Spring Knoll, additional seeding for the grass impacted by salt treatment on Newtown Road (edge of Hilltop), tree maintenance, and care. The meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm, and the next meeting is May 16th at 7 pm.

### **Rain Garden Update.**

Chairperson Doms informed the EAC that the BOS has approved proceeding with a rain garden on an Easttown resident's property. The resident has contacted the landscaping contractor about a date to start the project. The plants have been acquired and are being cared for at Sam Brown's Nursery. A limited number of tools need to be purchased for the project.

Councilmember Rash is working on a Growing Greener grant proposal to fund this project moving forward; this year's deadline is June 23, 2023. To obtain BOS approval of the grant proposal, the EAC will provide the access letter and the contractor agreement letter. The first goal is to seek BOS approval of the contact, and then the EAC will work with Twp staff to submit the application by the deadline.

The application is detailed and requires a lot of technical information, GIS data, and a good aerial photo of the Twp. Supervisor D'Antonio suggested working with the Twp's engineering firm Arrow, and Director Fiorenza will ask them. EAC will work with Twp Manager Don Curley on the legal documents to be submitted with the application. Assistant Twp Manager Jonathan Ewald can help with the submission of the grant proposal through the DEP's portal.

### **Street Tree Project Update.**

Vice Chair Ellis reported that the BOS approved the Street Tree Program package on April 17. Next steps are working on the list of resident names in the targeted area and sending them the Twp letter, the draft of which is being reviewed by Supervisor Michael Wacey. After the letters go out, a door-to-door information campaign for residents in the targeted area will be conducted on May 20-21. Secretary Pyati will provide plastic nametags with EAC/Twp logos so that doorknockers are identifiable as Twp representatives. Chairperson Doms and Bill Hartman will write a script for doorknockers.

### **Stream Cleanup Update.**

The April 15 stream cleanup hosted by the EAC was discussed. Sixty-one people attended this year. The amount of trash collected this year at Hilltop Park was lower than last year. Hilltop is a difficult site due to the thicket near the creek, the fact that part of the walk is either in a bog or in the creek itself, and the ticks. Hilltop may be a less desirable site for an annual cleanup. Sussex Place, however, had a lot of refuse this year despite doing a cleanup just last year. For future years, several ideas were discussed. Secretary Pyati noted that a cleanup near the CVS in Berwyn or an Adopt a Road might be of interest. The EACH could partner with Litter Lifters in West Vincent Twp. Because Adopt-a-Road has safety concerns, the idea of multiple sites on a single day was proposed: adults-only on roads, and more family sites off-road. The day could also be split between a stream cleanup and a bird walk with Bird Town.

#### **Earth Day Update.**

The EAC held a table at the Upper Main Line YMCA Earth Day festival. The event went well, although the location on the UMLY campus was difficult to find. For future tabling events, resources like a table runner and a poster would be helpful; Chairperson Doms will look at how a table runner and display item like those of DCVA can be acquired.

#### **Community Repair Event Planning.**

Councilmember Rash informed the EAC that the event will be an official Repair Café Easttown event and the license was purchased. The Repair Café marketing materials can be used, and Bob Berkowitz of Repair Café Downingtown shared many tips for success. Recruitment of volunteers and repair coaches has begun, with a goal of 20-25 volunteers, and six individuals have volunteered. Typically lamp repair is the most active item. A staff member from Paoli Hardware may be interested. The target date is September 2023, likely at Trinity Presbyterian Church.

#### **Gathering Data on Gas Powered Leaf Blowers.**

Councilmember LeWitt has offered to work with Tredyffrin EAC to do data collection. Councilmember Rash will pass along Michael's contact information to Tracy Viola at Tredyffrin EAC.

#### **Plastic Bag Ban Update.**

Two residents have brought forward lots of complaints about the plastic bag ban. Councilmember LeWitt added that people are angry about paying for bags. Discussion ensued about businesses involved and who is responsible for educating the public. Supervisor D'Antonio mentioned that the Township has not received any negative commentary and that the EAC has rolled out a successful implementation. We discussed collecting email addresses from households in Easttown Township for further communication. Councilmember LeWitt mentioned distributing the e-Newsletter via email to everyone. No further action is necessary.

#### **E-newsletter Article.**

Chairperson Doms will work with intern Luke Hedlund to create the next EAC e-newsletter. Councilmember LeWitt will be offering a brain teaser/puzzle for environmental issues. Chairperson Doms will be offering an article on birds of Easttown that she will work with her neighbor on to create. The E-newsletter will also include announcements, possibly an article by Secretary Pyati on either geothermal energy or an open space interview with kids. Another article may highlight the rain garden that was planted if it is finished.

#### **Announcements.**

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 25, 2023.

**Public Comment.**

There was no public comment.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Radha Pyati  
Secretary, Easttown EAC