

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

Thursday, May 25, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 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; David Fiorenza, Township Finance Director; Luke Hedlund, EAC intern; Bill Hartman (57 Knox Ave., present on zoom) and Susan Lea, resident (617 Newtown Rd) and volunteer with the Willistown Conservation Trust.

**Street Trees.**

The EAC moved, seconded, and approved a motion to consider the Street Trees item first. Vice Chair Ellis led with thanks to Chairperson Doms, Secretary Pyati, Bill Hartman, and the EAC intern for the street tree walkabout on Sunday, May 20 in the Old Berwyn neighborhood. They reported on the experience. Several residents were very interested in the program; Secretary Pyati will follow up with them by mailing postcards. Director Fiorenza reported that four mailback responses to Supervisor Wacey's letter have come back signed by residents who are interested in participating. The Thursday June 8 information session will begin with a welcome from Vice Chair Ellis, a welcome and intro to the EAC by Chairperson Doms, an explanation by Mr. Hartman of the benefits of the program and examples of likely tree candidates, and a Q&A session. Secretary Pyati will push information on the program to the Township (Twp) Facebook page, and Mr. Harman will visit the homes where literature was left or the residents expressed "maybe" interest.

**Consideration of Draft April 27, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes.**

The April 2023 minutes were approved with a motion, second, friendly amendment, and 5-0 vote.

**Intern Report.**

Luke Hedlund, EAC intern, reported on his activities. He informed the group that he has organized the seed bank; assisted with the stream study on Saturday, May 20; reorganized the minutes binder; posted Repair Café flyers; and participated in the street tree walkabout. Future ideas for working with a Conestoga High School intern include recruiting an intern in early January and soliciting volunteers for projects from the Key Club and the National Honor Society.

**Bird Town USA Update.**

Councilmember Rash updated the EAC. The Board of Supervisors (BOS) has approved the resolution to become a Bird Town. The requirements of being a Bird Town are to submit an annual report in December. The Twp is already conducting several activities that fit the Bird Town application. The application will be completed by Councilmember Rash and Secretary Pyati and brought to the EAC's June meeting for approval. The EAC moved with a second and a 5-0 vote that the Bird Town committee will at minimum consist of the entire EAC. The "at minimum" language is intended to enable additional interested persons to become members of the Bird Town committee.

**Rain Garden Update.**

Councilmember Rash noted that the first rain garden planting went well and was installed by her, Ruth and Jim Mooney, and the homeowner. It was a lot of work for four people. In the future, the plants received should be checked against the invoice, because some substitutions were made. The sign for the

rain garden has been ordered. Councilmember Rash's rain garden article may not run in this month's newsletter because there is so much content for the newsletter already.

Interest in installing a rain garden has been expressed by a homeowners' association that experiences a lot of stormwater on Rte 30 across from Nectar. Councilmember Rash had told them that the EAC would discuss this at the May meeting, and if acceptable to the EAC, a few members would check out the potential site. Discussion ensued on how new sites are selected; currently the program is a pilot that interested parties can contact, and in the future there will be criteria for site selection. Supervisor D'Antonio supported the pilot approach and applauded the fact that residents are hearing about it and asking to participate. In fall, additional labor will be solicited from clubs at Conestoga High School.

Susan Lea of the Willistown Conservation Trust offered the EAC a presentation on stormwater and downstream flooding. The lack of adequate stormwater management upstream has significant flooding impacts downstream, and pulling that together with the rain garden work might be useful. The EAC discussed reading the minutes of the Twp's Stormwater Management Advisory Committee.

#### **Rain Garden Grant.**

Chairperson Doms and Councilmember Rash reviewed the proposal and the budget, including the match of volunteer time. The BOS has approved the submission of the grant. The final proposal should be sent to Director Fiorenza and Assistant Township Manager Jonathan Ewald to review and submit. The EAC voted 5-0 with a motion and second to approve the final edited version of the proposal.

#### **Event Tablecloth, Table Runner, and Standup Sign.**

Chairperson Doms sent several estimates of prices and styles of the aforementioned items. The total cost for all items is approximately \$233, which is available in the 2023 EAC budget. Secretary Pyati will work with the designer of the EAC logo to assist us with the standup sign. The EAC voted 5-0 with a motion and second to approve this acquisition.

#### **Fourth of July Table.**

Councilmember LeWitt reported that Parks and Recreation approved EAC participation in the event. It begins at 9 am on July 4 with a children's event, followed by a bike parade and cookout, and runs till 1 pm. Secretary Pyati will bring a table and represent the EAC from 9:30 – 11:30 am, and Vice Chair Ellis will take over from 11:30 am – 1 pm. The ROSERP Task Force wishes to share the table. The EAC voted 5-0 with a motion and second to proceed with the tabling.

#### **Liaison Report – Board of Supervisors.**

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

#### **Liaison Report – Planning Commission.**

#### **Liaison Report – ROSERP Task Force.**

Vice Chair Ellis reported that the next public workshop will be on July 13. Regarding the Spring Knoll property, the deed indicates that it is owned by the Twp for recreational and open space purposes. Consultants Tom Comitta and Erin Gross are scheduled to attend the June 22 EAC meeting and provide an update; however, their visit will be postponed since Vice Chair Ellis and Councilmember LeWitt will be absent at the June 22 meeting.

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

Chairperson Doms reported that there had been no meeting since the last meeting.

**Liaison Report – Parks and Recreation.**

Councilmember LeWitt made a minor correction to his written liaison report, adding the word “hemlocks” after “courtyard,” and it was accepted by the EAC.

**Rain Gardens – Sustainability PA Application.**

Councilmember Rash noted that other townships are pursuing this grant.

**Community Repair Event Planning.**

Councilmember Rash attended Repair Café Downingtown with Pastor Sarah of Trinity Presbyterian Church and three repair coaches. The leader of the Downingtown event stressed the importance of working with the hardware stores, and Councilmember Rash will visit local hardware stores and discuss it with them. In order to select a final date for the event, she is seeking 20 volunteers and currently has eight volunteers signed up. The event will be advertised in the newsletter.

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

Councilmember LeWitt has spoken with Tracy Viola of the Tredyffrin EAC and is working toward a goal of moving from gas to electric powered leaf blowers.

**E-newsletter Articles.**

The next E-newsletter has a large number of articles. These include the local children’s input on open space; flyers on the ROSERP workshop, street trees, Anything-with-a-Plug disposal, and native plants; a native species article from Tredyffrin; a rain garden article; information on the Repair Café; and the trivia feature. The article on enteric disease in well water may be for the next newsletter. The EAC voted 5-0 with a motion and second to approve the E-newsletter articles.

**Presentation on Plastic Bag Ban.**

Councilmember Rash has been invited to speak about the plastic bag ban at a conference of the Recycling Professionals of PA at Gettysburg College in July 2023. The BOS has approved this.

**TreeVitalize.**

Supervisor Wacey informed the EAC of a TreeVitalize conference in Philadelphia May 31 - June 1.

**Next Township Newsletter.**

Articles for the next newsletter are due July 1. Plans are to run the local children/open space article, a leaf blower piece by Councilmember LeWitt, information on a seed workshop, and on electronic recycling. Secretary Pyati will ask Susan Greene about the format and editorial calendar of the newsletter.

**Announcements.**

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 22, 2023.

**Public Comment.**

There was no public comment.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:27 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Radha Pyati  
Secretary, Easttown EAC