

Easttown Township



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EASTTOWN TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES Thursday, May 26, 2022

The regular meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm by Chairperson Cara Rash. Environmental Advisory Councilmembers in attendance were Gary Ellis, Kate Goddard Doms, Heather Hill, Cara Rash, and Radha Pyati. Also attending were Supervisor Michael Wacey; and Eugene Briggs, Township Manager.

Consideration of Draft April 28, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes.

The April minutes were approved with a motion and second and three friendly amendments by a 5-0 vote.

Consideration of Pennsylvania Conservation Corridor Initiative.

The EAC discussed the Pennsylvania Conservation Corridor Initiative, an effort to create corridors across roadways for safe passage of wildlife across a larger habitat area. A resolution to study these corridors has passed the Pennsylvania House Transportation Committee and will go to the full House of Representatives. Upon discussion, it was determined that there is no direct application to the Township at this time but the EAC will observe this effort.

Discussion on the New Process for Holding Workshops at the Easttown Library.

Chairperson Rash brought forward a proposal by the Easttown Library that they take over the RSVP process for EAC workshops. This originated from the issue of late-notifying registrants seeking the zoom link to the recycling workshop who could not get the link from the Township office after work hours. The Library is willing to continue accepting registrants up to the start of the event. Events are already hosted by the Library's zoom account. If this proposal is accepted, the Township website will still advertise EAC events, but interested individuals will be directed to register and RSVP through the Library. A motion to accept the Easttown Library's proposed RSVP process for EAC workshops hosted at the Library was moved, seconded, and passed with a 5-0 vote.

Discussion of Environmental Advisory Council Logo Options.

The EAC discussed several logo options sent to the group by Councilmember Hill. With a motion, a second, and a 5-0 vote, the EAC approved the proposal of the logo entitled 5.jpeg to the Board of Supervisors for approval. This logo is reproduced below.



Discussion on Trex Bench Options.

The Twp has earned a bench through Trex recycling efforts established by the EAC; discussion of the bench's color, location, anchoring, and plaque ensued. The EAC supported the additional

\$30 charge and production time for a green bench rather than the standard color. A location at the bottom of Hilltop Park near the gate on Newtown Road was preferred. Manager Briggs will ask Public Works Director Don Curley about how to anchor the bench to the ground. The EAC favored placing a plaque on the bench with text indicating that the bench is dedicated to the residents of Easttown Township for their recycling efforts. Once information on feasibility and costs of these aspects has been shared, the EAC will make its recommendation and convey that to the BOS for their approval.

Discussion of a Potential Rain Garden Program.

The EAC discussed the initiation of a rain garden program, which is included as one of the EAC's 2022 goals. Several other communities, such as Tredyffrin, Havertown, and Upper Darby, have established programs; Tredyffrin has won a \$20,000 grant from Growing Greener. The EAC exchanged ideas about the scope, budget, and volunteer needs for this effort and planned to take it up again in fall 2022.

Liaison Report – Board of Supervisors.

Chairperson Rash reported on the Board of Supervisors. The BOS approved the use of ARPA funds and an RFP to repair the Library roof. They will consider the EAC's proposed plastic bag ban ordinance at its June 6 meeting; if the ordinance passes, the EAC can request BOS permission to apply for a Chester County Solid Waste grant to support the program.

Liaison Report – Planning Commission.

Vice Chair Ellis reported on the Planning Commission. Ann Rothman has been designated as the liaison to the Open Space Task Force. The PC addressed two land development applications.

Liaison Report – Parks and Recreation Board.

Councilmember Hill reported on the Parks and Recreation Board. The P&R Board will vote on their liaison to the Open Space Task Force in June. They have established their summer concert series at Hilltop Park and are considering activities at Johnson Park.

Watershed Partnership Meeting Update.

Councilmember Doms reported that the watershed partnership group wants involvement from as many municipalities as possible and is seeking paid interns. She and Councilmember Pyati will follow up on recruiting interns.

Compost Swap Update.

Councilmember Hill reported that while she was at UMLY's Migratory Bird Day event, five families signed up for the compost swap. The location is still pending.

Grant Repository.

Chairperson Rash and Councilmember Pyati will develop a spreadsheet of grant opportunities for which the Twp/EAC can apply. Manager Briggs suggested the Chester County Planning Commission as a resource for this kind of information.

Trick or Trash Box/Pumpkin Collection.

Chairperson Rash reported that Rubicon, a waste and recycling company, offers a Trick or Trash collection for candy wrappers after Halloween. The EAC expressed interest and Councilmember Hill is willing to oversee it at a pickup spot like the Library.

Seed Saving.

The EAC discussed the possibility of an exchange for heirloom quality seeds. Chester Springs and Kennett Square have implemented this. It typically has little to no cost, is self-serve, and can consist of a file cabinet or seasoning shakers full of seeds that are placed in a location such as a library vestibule or garden center.

Public Comment.

Supervisor Wacey expressed interest in the EAC's consideration of a tree planting project.

Announcements.

The June 23 meeting was canceled due to lack of Councilmember availability; the next regularly scheduled meeting is Thursday, July 28, 2022, at 7:00 pm.

Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Radha Pyati
Secretary, Easttown EAC