

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

Thursday, June 22, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Chairperson Kate Doms. Environmental Advisory Councilmembers in attendance were Kate Doms, Gary Ellis (on zoom), Radha Pyati, and Cara Rash. Also attending were Supervisor Alex Bosco and Jon Ewald, Assistant Township Manager. Councilmember Michael LeWitt was excused.

Consideration of Draft May 25, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes.

The May 25, 2023 minutes were approved with a motion, second, and 3-0 vote, prior to Vice Chair Ellis's arrival.

Street Trees.

The EAC reviewed the report sent by Vice Chair Ellis. Secretary Pyati will draft text for postcards to send to interested residents and send the draft text to Vice Chair Ellis and Bill Hartman. There are seven trees remaining that have not been allocated to residents. Manager Ewald suggested that these trees can go to Johnson or Hilltop Parks. Concern was expressed that specific tree species may not be available in time for the fall planting period; Bill Hartman can assist in selecting an alternative, and residents will be informed in the postcard that they will receive one of a few possible species.

Bird Town USA – Application to be approved.

Councilmember Rash asked the group if there was any additional input for the application. There was no additional input. The EAC approved with a motion, second, and 4-0 vote to approve the application. It has already been approved by the Board of Supervisors. Councilmember Rash will submit it to Bird Town USA.

Rain Garden Update.

Councilmember Rash updated the group. She, Chairperson Doms, and Ruth Mooney have made several trips to the Highlands HOA property near Rte 30 across from Nectar. Other visitors include Jamie Anderson of the Eastern Delaware County Stormwater Coalition, and Michael Duranti, the contractor who worked on the Pennsylvania Avenue rain garden. The site does receive a lot of water and would benefit from support, but it is a complex site because there are several points of water influx and outflow. There are differing opinions on the need for river rock in the project. Ruth Mooney is preparing a plant list and Michael Duranti will send pricing soon. Chairperson Doms will present to the HOA on Friday, June 30 at 2 pm. If the HOA approves the project, they will develop a committee.

Another resident on Devon State Road has contacted Manager Ewald about a rain garden; a first look indicates that some engineering may be needed. The resident was informed that if the grant is funded, they can apply for a rain garden.

Rain Garden Grant.

The Growing Greener grant approved at the May meeting was submitted by Councilmember Rash and Manager Ewald.

Approve contributions to Easttown Township newsletter.

Councilmember LeWitt's article about leaf blowers was reviewed. The complete set of items includes Lewitt's piece, Secretary Pyati's article on local children and open space, and two flyers for the Repair Café and the Mid-Atlantic Native Plant Society events. The EAC moved with a second and 4-0 vote to place all these in the newsletter. The current vendor is Franklin Maps.

College intern for the fall.

Chairperson Doms' draft description of college intern duties was acceptable to the EAC. She will post it on the Handshake website and include a small QR code with text like "Interns Wanted" to place in the Township newsletter. She will make the QR code and direct it to the EAC website, where the intern duties description will be posted.

Liaisons to other ABCs – are all needed?

The EAC discussed whether all the EAC liaisons to other authorities, boards, and commissions are necessary. Attendance at each ABC meeting is not needed, especially when much of the agenda is not pertinent to the EAC. After the discussion, the following consensus was reached:

- the liaisons will continue, but the liaison's role is to read the agenda of the upcoming meeting;
- if attendance is needed, the liaison asks the EAC members who might be available to attend;
- reports of ABC meetings are no longer needed at the EAC meetings; and
- Councilmember Rash will serve as liaison to the Stormwater Management Advisory Committee (SMAC) in the role described here.

Seed Library.

Councilmember Rash has worked with the Hardy Plant Society-Mid-Atlantic Group to establish a date for a native plant workshop on Saturday, September 9, at 10 am at the Easttown Library. The Library space is reserved and their staff will post the event and collect RSVPs.

The summer season is not a good planting season, so the EAC approved placing the seed library on a summer "vacation" with a motion, second, and 4-0 vote. Sharing photos of plants grown from the seed library was discussed very favorably, and the Library will be approached to post growing photos on its website, with a mention of the EAC's role in establishing the seed library.

Liaison Report – Board of Supervisors.

EAC members were not able to attend the Monday, June 19 meeting.

Liaison Report – Planning Commission.

Vice Chair Ellis's report was accepted.

Liaison Report – ROSERP Task Force.

Vice Chair Ellis will ask ROSERP TF members about who wishes to work at the July 4 table.

Liaison Report – Watershed Partners Team – meeting canceled until further notice.

Liaison Report – Parks and Recreation - no report.

Manager Ewald reported on items related to Parks and Recreation. The new Trex bench has arrived and been placed at Johnson Park, and the bench currently at Hilltop Park will be relocated to Johnson Park. Compliments on the benches have been received. Parks and Recreation is moving forward with returning a small portion of Hilltop Park to a meadow, rather than turfgrass, in a form similar to West Chester's project near a wastewater treatment plant. The return to a meadow is typically done in one of

three ways, as described by consultant Tom Comitta: 1) stopping mowing for two years and eliminating undesirable plants; 2) mowing twice a year; and 3) tilling the turf and making specific plantings, a more expensive plan. Easttown Parks and Recreation is proceeding with the first option.

Event Tablecloth, Table Runner, and Standup Sign.

The tablecloth has arrived and the table runner is arriving very soon. The standup sign is not complete, but Secretary Pyati will follow up.

Community Repair Event Planning.

Councilmember Rash has posted flyers in several locations. She approached Paoli Hardware; they did not express interest and did not wish to post the flyer. Six individuals have volunteered to be repair coaches. Flyers will be posted at the farmers' market, the July 4 event, and local children's consignment stores, and Do It Best Hardware in Wayne will be approached. The repair coaches from Repair Café Phoenixville may be willing to volunteer at the Easttown event.

Announcements.

Secretary Pyati and Vice Chair Ellis will host the July 4 table at Johnson Park. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 27, 2023.

Public Comment.

There was no public comment.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Radha Pyati
Secretary, Easttown EAC