

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

Thursday, June 24, 2021

The regular meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Chairperson Cara Rash. Environmental Advisory Councilmembers in attendance were Kathryn Goddard Doms, Gary Ellis, Heather Hill, Cara Rash, and Radha Pyati. Also attending were Supervisor Beth D'Antonio; Eugene Briggs, AICP, CZO, Township Manager; and Clara Steege.

Consideration of May 27, 2021 regular meeting minutes.

The May 27 minutes were approved 5-0 with a motion and second.

Finalize Details for Composting Workshop.

The composting workshop details were finalized: date is Tuesday, June 29, 2021, and the location is the carriage house at the Upper Main Line YMCA. The registered headcount is low at only nine registrants, but the EAC members agreed that the event should proceed.

Discussion of publicizing events led to a conversation on publicizing the EAC's work in general, especially via social media. Supervisor D'Antonio suggested sharing and tagging posts on the Facebook page. Other methods mentioned include linking our Facebook posts to other entities such as the Berwyn Devon Business Association and UMLY, including announcements in the UMLY newsletter, and adding our events to the announcements of the Planning Commission and the Supervisors.

Finalize Details for July Fourth Commemoration EAC Table.

The July Fourth Commemoration EAC Table details were finalized: time is 11 am to 1:30 pm on July 4, 2021, at Johnson Park. Chairperson Rash and Councilmembers Ellis and Hill will attend. Gene Briggs is able to provide tables and chairs.

Discussion of Planning Commission's Desires for the EAC.

Councilmember Ellis spoke with Mary Hashemi, Chair of the Planning Commission. She suggested that the EAC work with the Planning Commission on land parcels for trails and open space. The Parks and Recreation Board would be approached to join this effort, and if successful, would be a good collaboration among multiple township boards. Councilmember Doms will speak with the Parks and Recreation Board about this. Councilmember Ellis will follow up with the Planning Commission about this and about beekeeping. Hiring a consultant to assist with this would be possible; this would require a budget request to the Supervisors.

Consideration of Single Plastic Use Ordinance/Sustainable Storefronts.

The EAC discussed a draft resolution encouraging the reduction of single use plastics and the Pennsylvania state ban on regulations restricting them. Chairperson Rash will get in touch with West Chester people involved in their Sustainable Storefronts program. Working with the Berwyn Devon Business Association will be explored; they have monthly meetings. Conducting a survey of Easttown residents and organizing a workshop on the success of Sustainable Storefronts programs were discussed.

Liaison Report – Parks and Recreation.

Councilmember Doms reported on the Parks and Recreation Board. They are considering a capital project at Johnson Park. Councilmember Doms will ask for their input on a Trex bench.

Liaison Report – Planning Commission.

Councilmember Ellis reported on the Planning Commission. They are discussing Berwyn Square, parking in downtown Berwyn, and a road diet – narrowing Route 30 to one lane, with turn lanes and parking lanes.

Trex Bench Challenge Application.

The Trex Bench Challenge is an opportunity to win a bench made of Trex material if 500 pounds of plastic is collected within six months. The timeline for the six months will start in September, and the challenge will be publicized in order to encourage residents to bring plastic to the bins. Parks and Recreation will be approached first to see if there is an interest in housing the bench at a park, and if they are interested, the project will be presented to the Supervisors for their approval. The EAC moved and seconded a motion to pursue this opportunity; the motion passed 5-0.

Monarch Butterflies Initiative.

This initiative was tabled.

2022 Budget Request to Supervisors – Timeline.

Gene Briggs informed the EAC of the timeline to make a 2022 budget request to the Supervisors for project funding. A general sense of monetary requests should be provided by early August 2021. The fiscal year begins January 1, 2022.

Mapping Project Status.

In the May 2021 EAC meeting, Councilmember Ellis proposed a mapping of vegetation in Easttown Township and volunteered to create this map. Eugene Briggs proposed an alternative approach, rather than doing this by hand, involving photogrammetric computerized mapping of the tree canopy. He then approached the Chester County Planning Department, which expeditiously accomplished the task. This will move the town planning and open space process forward.

Stormwater Management.

Supervisor D’Antonio conveyed a suggestion from Supervisor Wacey that the EAC consider a review of stormwater outlets in the Township to meet stormwater management requirements. This involves walking through areas with stormwater to observe its flow, whether it is clogged, and any odor, discoloration, soap bubbles, and additional flows during dry weather. This may involve walking through private property, which requires writing a letter to the property owner requesting permission to access the property. Volunteers would require training. The timeline is approximately once every five-year permit cycle. Don Curley will be asked about the process.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Announcement

The next regularly scheduled meeting is Thursday, July 22, 2021, at 7:00 pm.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Radha Pyati
Secretary, Easttown EAC