

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

Thursday, July 22, 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 Michael Wacey and Don Curley, Director of Public Works.

Consideration of June 24, 2021 regular meeting minutes.

The June 24 minutes were approved 5-0 with a motion and second.

Discussion of Rain Garden Workshop Marketing.

The rain garden workshop on Saturday, August 21, is posted on the Township website and Facebook page. The group discussed numerous other venues for posting flyers and marketing the event, including the Easttown Library, the Upper Main Line YMCA, the Post Office, and various groups and online message boards. Councilmember Pyati suggested informing the homeowners associations in the Township and volunteered to begin a list of them. Councilmember Doms will send the flyer PDF to the Councilmembers for distribution.

Discussion of Monarch Butterfly Workshop Planning.

Councilmember Hill opened the items with several options for workshops. The Weeders, a local gardening group, will be planting a pollinator garden at Hilltop Park; they propose ideas, which are considered and approved by the Parks and Recreation Board. Director Curley noted that the earthworks and plant purchasing is moving forward and that the garden will go in this fall. Councilmembers Doms and Ellis will go to the Parks and Rec Board's August 17 meeting to talk about this and other matters. The Council agreed to target a spring 2022 date for a butterfly or pollinator workshop.

Discussion of Businesses and Community Single-Use Plastic Workshops.

Chairperson Rash spoke with a representative of the Berwyn Devon Business Association, which is open to a fall 2021 presentation related to alternatives to single-use plastics. A representative from West Chester's sustainable storefront effort is willing to speak to us, or to the Board of Supervisors if interested. Supervisor Wacey said that a short talk with the Supervisors might be possible. The West Chester program has been successful, and participating businesses get a recognition on the West Chester borough webpage. The Council expressed interest in a September presentation.

Discussion of Beekeeping Initiative.

Councilmember Ellis informed the Council that the Planning Commission has posted draft amendments to the zoning code that include beekeeping and the PC is interested in EAC input. The draft beekeeping language was researched by Gene Briggs and is a starting point. Councilmember Ellis noted that bee ordinances range from the permissive to the restrictive and that proximity of beekeeping to neighbors was an important consideration, especially regarding swimming pools.

The Council considered a motion with a second that the EAC undertake a study of the proposed beekeeping ordinance, building upon what has been drafted. The motion passed 5-0. The Council agreed to review the draft ordinance and discuss at the August 2021 meeting to consider points for a potential position paper.

Discussion of 2022 Budgetary Initiative.

The Council developed the following list to begin a 2022 budget request to the Board of Supervisors: 1) Trex bin liners, 2) a consultant to assist with open space planning, 3) printing, cleaning supplies for projects, incidents, 4) speaker fees, and 5) registration fees for regional EAC conferences. Director Curley informed the group that July-August was an appropriate timeline for a general budget, and that more specific numbers would be needed in October-November for the final request.

Liaison Report – Parks and Recreation.

Councilmember Doms reported on the Parks and Recreation Board. They did not meet in July. The P&R Board will be approached regarding placement of a Trex bench, which the Twp is likely to earn early in the fall. The bench can be rigidly mounted; installation will require funding from the Twp budget. The P&R board is already planning to install two benches in Johnson Park; one could be the Trex bench. The bench could have a descriptive plaque.

Liaison Report – Planning Commission.

Councilmember Ellis reported on the Planning Commission. The Berwyn Square item has moved forward and the PC is taking up an omnibus zoning amendment.

Communication Calendar.

Councilmember Pyati reviewed the draft communications calendar and will ask EAC members for short written pieces four weeks ahead of a planned release on the Facebook page. Sharing posts to disseminate the Council's work was discussed. Chairperson Rash will ask the Berwyn Devon Business Association, the Berwyn Dispatch, and Berwyn Neighbors to link to our posts.

Trex Bin at Upper Main Line YMCA.

Councilmember Ellis is discussing this with UMLY. There are names of volunteers available for a third bin pickup. UMLY may also be interested in doing their own challenge for their own award and placement of benches.

Recreation, Open Space, and Environmental Resources Plan Update.

Councilmember Ellis will send drafts of the presentation to the partner boards: PC and P&R.

Workshop with Darby Creek Valley Association.

The DCVA is doing a workshop on October 20 from 6-8:30 pm, location TBD.

Stream Cleanups.

Councilmember Doms opened a discussion of a stream cleanup. A cleanup entails several items: advertising, buying safety gloves and vests, getting waivers for safety and photos, setting up teams, organizing their work. DCVA does a big cleanup in April, and the Chester Ridley Crum association does another one. If the Council wants to do a cleanup in April, partnering with DCVA is a possibility. If we do not partner with DCVA, borrowing their safety vests and gloves might be an option.

Outflow Review.

Supervisor Wacey noted that a stream outflow review should be conducted this fall. Director Curley provided some estimates of what such a project might look like: it would need approximately 20 volunteers, because there are 125 outfalls, one-third of which are in plain view, one-third are hard to access, and one-third are in between. The more difficult sites are on private property. He suggested a

small portion as a pilot project: ten outfalls and two volunteers. The project must go through the Board of Supervisors and legal review. Director Curley will share this idea with legal and management next.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Announcement

The next regularly scheduled meeting is Thursday, August 26, 2021, at 7:00 pm.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:23 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Radha Pyati
Secretary, Easttown EAC