

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

Thursday, August 26, 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; Eugene Briggs, Township Manager; and Roy Friedlander.

Consideration of July 22, 2021 regular meeting minutes.

The July 22 minutes were approved 5-0 with a motion and second.

Discussion on Draft Bee Keeping Ordinance Amendments.

The Council discussed the draft beekeeping ordinance amendment in the agenda packet. The discussion touched on several matters including setback, property size, number of hives, proximity to fresh water, and bee habits. The EAC passed a motion with a second with a 4-1 vote to provide the following recommendations on the amendment: 1) the ordinance should include a requirement that adjacent neighbors be notified of the requested permit, that notification is the applicant's responsibility, and that proof of notification is required with the permit application, and 2) the ordinance should include a recommendation that applicants take a beekeeping course such as the Penn State Extension course or an equivalent. Supervisor Wacey noted that the EAC could choose to create a pamphlet of beekeeping recommendations beyond the ordinance itself.

Discussion on Recreation, Open Space, and Environmental Resources Plan Update.

Chairperson Rash and Councilmembers Doms and Ellis reported on their presentation of the EAC's proposed joint plan update to the Parks and Recreation Board. Their ideas were received favorably, and a resident survey was suggested.

The EAC developed the following plan to move forward. The EAC will propose a joint task force consisting of two members each of the EAC, Planning Commission, and Parks and Recreation Board. This task force will work with a consultant to develop the update to the Recreation, Open Space, and Environmental Resources Plan. The EAC will seek agreement with the other two boards and, if the other boards agree, the group will make a short presentation to the Board of Supervisors, explaining the problem and how the effort will solve it, to request the Board of Supervisors' approval to proceed. A point supporting this effort is the language within the Comprehensive Plan indicating that the Recreation, Open Space, and Environmental Resources Plan should be updated.

The consultant fees are estimated at \$100,000 and will be placed in the EAC's 2022 budget request. The suggestion was made that each of the other boards also place the same \$100,000 consultant fees in its budget. The plan is estimated to be a two-year effort and can have multiple touchpoints with the public, including a resident survey and the task force itself.

Discussion on Draft 2022 Budget Request.

The Council moved the 2022 budget request below with a second and passed the request 5-0.

Item	Amount
Incidentals (Trex can liners, etc.)	\$300
Workshop-related expenses (Speaker fees/travel, space and equipment rental, resident hand outs, etc.)	\$2,000
City Planning Consultant to update the 1993 Open Space Plan	\$100,000
Sustainable Storefronts Recognition program	\$500
Total	\$102,800

One item changed in the draft budget in the agenda was the Trex bench installation expense, which was removed from the final 2022 budget because the bench is a standalone bench and does not require installation. The Parks and Recreation Board has approved the Trex bench and the EAC can continue the Trex Bench Challenge. The location will likely be at Hilltop Park near Newtown Road.

Review of Draft Single-use Plastic Survey.

The statewide ban on plastic bag bans has been lifted, and several municipalities, including Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, West Chester, and Narberth will have a plastic bag ban in effect on December 8. Penn Environment has recommended that interested municipalities achieve this by January 1, 2022, and that most businesses typically participate if provided a long enough onramp.

Chairperson Rash created a draft survey on a plastic bag ban for businesses in the Township. Edits suggested by Councilmembers include striking question 9, replacing "Easttown" with "EAC" in question 7, rewriting question 10 to ask whether respondents support businesses' charging customers a bag fee (10 cents or less) for using plastic or paper bags in Easttown Twp, and replacing question 3 with a question about how much time a business would need to use up its current inventory of plastic bags (3 months, 6 months, 9 months). Once the draft survey is edited, showing it to Stacey Ballard and the Board of Supervisors was recommended.

A workshop on this was proposed, ideally for late September, in either the Township building or the Library. The Board of Supervisors will be asked to approve this workshop. The survey can be distributed to businesses by young people in the area, possibly Conestoga High School students. Chairperson Rash will reach out to Clara Steege.

Liaison Report – Parks and Recreation Board.

Councilmember Doms reported that the Parks and Recreation Board is interested in improving access to the creek near Beaumont Elementary School. Mr. Briggs noted that this is a riparian buffer requiring management according to appropriate regulation and that a look at riparian management could be recommended in the Open Space Plan.

Liaison Report – Planning Commission.

Councilmember Ellis reported that the Planning Commission is handling issues related to (1) Waynesborough golf course site modifications and (2) swimming pool placement marginally within a riparian buffer area, on a ten acres property constrained by stream location and flood hazard considerations.

Watershed Workshop Date.

The workshop entitled “Introduction to the Darby Creek Headwaters Monitoring Program” presented by Lauren McGrath, Director of Watershed Protection Program, Willistown Conservation Trust, will be held on Thursday, October 21, at 7 pm at the Upper Main Line YMCA Carriage House.

Communications/In Community Magazine Articles .

Councilmember Pyati will send the draft In Community magazine submission to Mr. Briggs and the EAC. She is working on developing the regular Facebook posts.

Compost Swap Program.

Councilmember Hill described a compost swap program in which residents bring a full bucket of compost and pick up an empty bucket to a designated location during a two-hour window; Mother Compost, a regional composting company, drops off the empty buckets and picks up the full ones. Councilmember Hill and Chairperson Rash will consider some locations.

LED Streetlights.

Supervisor Wacey suggested that the EAC look into LED streetlights. The Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission will do a presentation on this soon. Currently PECO owns the streetlights and poles, and the Twp pays for the electricity. If a municipality desires LED streetlights, PECO requires that that the municipality purchases the light and the pole and handles the maintenance.

DCVA Conference of Environmental Advisory Councils.

The Darby Creek Valley Association is holding a conference of regional EACs on Wednesday, October 20, 2021. Registration has not opened yet. Funding for the Easttown EAC attendance may be possible from the Township.

Newsletter.

Chairperson Rash suggested that the EAC consider producing a newsletter in 2022, potentially coordinated with Tredyffrin EAC.

MS4 Permit.

The current MS4 stormwater permit requires that all municipalities do their part to reduce sediment and pollutants, and Mr. Don Curley, Township Director of Public Works, will attend the September 23 EAC meeting to educate Councilmembers on this matter.

Public Comment

Roy Friedlander, 585 Watford Lane, commented upon stormwater outflows. He observed that several stormwater outlets are plugged for months, leaving standing water on residential properties after storms.

Announcement

The next regularly scheduled meeting is Thursday, September 23, 2021, at 7:00 pm.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:51 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Radha Pyati

Secretary, Easttown EAC