

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

Thursday, September 23, 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; Don Curley, Director of Public Works; Vera Neumann-Sachs; Aishi Debroy; Lilly Shui; and Clara Steege.

**Presentation on the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit.**

Director Curley presented several pieces of information on the Township's MS4 permit. The permit requires the following:

- 1) a pollutant reduction plan (PRP) for a priority pollutant. Easttown Twp's priority pollutant is sediment. The Twp must submit a PRP showing how the pollutant will be removed, and the Twp must approve \$500,000 of projects over the course of the five-year permit.
- 2) study of another priority pollutant, PCBs, which will be done by a desktop analysis and report.
- 3) visual inspection of 125 outfalls. This has been done by Director Curley.
- 4) mapping of all outfalls. The Twp has a map; updating the map is a requirement.

In January 2021, the Twp divided the permit responsibilities into those to be done by citizens, staff, nonprofits, and consultants. Citizens must apply for stormwater permits if their projects require inspections and are encouraged to use best management practices. Staff maintain the website. Nonprofits, such as stakeholder groups from the watersheds, conduct education and outreach; the EAC workshops fall into this category also. A consultant prepares the annual report and assists in starting the first project. The EAC supports the MS4 requirements through education, outreach, and possibly the citizen outfall review project discussed at earlier meetings.

The planned open space review might enable the consideration of land acquisition that benefits the MS4 permit by acquiring property where sediment reduction is possible and cost-effective. The cost of reducing sediment is calculated by PA DEP using a formula.

Vera Neumann-Sachs asked how much stormwater planning was involved in the two developments on Lancaster Avenue. Director Curley noted that the permits include construction controls and post-construction controls, and Manager Briggs noted that neither location has any stormwater management plan now.

**Consideration of August 26, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes.**

The August 26 minutes received two friendly amendments, which were approved 5-0 with a motion and a second. The amended minutes were approved 5-0 with a motion and second.

**Discussion on a Stormwater Task Force.**

Supervisor Wacey informed the EAC that the Board of Supervisors is considering a Stormwater Task Force. Staff will provide a draft ordinance to the BOS to create a permanent body, and if passed, it will begin in the first quarter of 2022.

**Finalize Details on the Single-use Plastics and Water Quality Workshops.**

The single-use plastics workshop will take place on Wednesday, October 6, at 6:30 pm at the Easttown Library. Chairperson Rash will set up a virtual attendance option that will be added to the invitation. The single-use plastics survey will go to the BOS for approval on October 4. Two groups at Conestoga High School are interested in helping with future efforts.

The Darby Creek watershed program will take place on Thursday, October 21, at 7:00 pm at the Upper Main Line YMCA Carriage House.

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

Councilmember Ellis spoke briefly about the open space plan effort at the Planning Commission meeting. The PC is supportive but did not take action. There is concern about the cost of a consultant. Councilmember Doms presented it at the Parks and Recreation Board meeting. The P&R Board voted to support the revamping of the plan. Concerns included the expense and the desire to see the updated plan used to a greater degree than the 1993 plan. Manager Briggs encouraged the group to focus on a five to ten-year timeframe. Supervisor Wacey suggested that the enabling ordinance that begins the plan process contains two elements: 1) an identified owner of the plan – either the EAC, the PC, or the P&R Board, and 2) an annual progress report.

The next step is presenting the budget item for the consultant to the BOS. Chairperson Rash will present it and Councilmembers Ellis and Doms will assist with talking points. Key points in support are 1) the Comprehensive Plan's note that the open space plan should be updated, 2) the joint effort of the three municipal boards to do this, and 3) the current plan's dating back to 1993. The EAC is encouraged to advocate the importance of this effort with passion.

#### **Presentation on the TE2Renewables Initiative.**

The TE2Renewables Initiative was presented by Clara Steege, Aishi Debroy, and Lilly Shui, students at Conestoga High School. The initiative is an effort to ask the Tredyffrin-Easttown School District Board to pass a resolution setting goals for the district to move to renewable electricity by 2025, renewable resources in all sectors by 2040, and sustainable construction planning. The Tredyffrin EAC has voted to endorse their effort.

The EAC endorsed the TE2Renewables proposed resolution to TESD with a motion and a second that passed 5-0.

#### **Liaison Report – Board of Supervisors.**

Chairperson Rash reported on three items discussed by the BOS: 1) the consideration of the Stormwater Task Force, 2) a feasibility study planned for the LED streetlight program, on which the BOS is asking the EAC to weigh in on positives, negatives, and a recommendation, and 3) the postponement of consideration of the single-use plastics survey to their Oct 4 meeting.

#### **Liaison Report – Planning Commission.**

Councilmember Ellis had no additional updates aside from the open space matter. He will present additional material on beekeeping to the PC as a private citizen.

#### **Liaison Report – Parks and Recreation Board.**

Councilmember Doms had no additional updates aside from the open space matter.

#### **Compost Swap Program.**

Councilmember Hill updated the EAC on possible locations for the compost swap: Trinity Presbyterian Church or St. John's Church.

**EAC Summary Presentation to BOS.**

The enabling ordinance of the EAC states a timeframe for an annual report on EAC activities presented to the BOS; Councilmembers will review the ordinance in order to prepare an annual report and highlights for the BOS at the prescribed time.

**Spring Cleanup of Darby Creek.**

The EAC discussed a spring cleanup of Darby Creek, either with the Darby Creek Valley Association (DCVA) or on its own. Both DCVA and the Twp have waivers. The time period around Earth Day was considered; Vera Neumann-Sachs noted that there are many other events occurring at the same time. Chairperson Rash will follow up with the new DCVA director.

**Newsletter.**

Chairperson Rash presented a draft EAC newsletter shared by both Easttown and Tredyffrin EACs. Manager Briggs directed the EAC to seek BOS approval. Chairperson Rash will share the draft with the Tredyffrin EAC.

**Public Comment**

There was no public comment at this time.

**Announcements.**

The Darby Creek Valley Association is holding a virtual conference of regional EACs on Wednesday, October 20, 2021.

The next regularly scheduled meeting is Thursday, October 28, 2021, at 7:00 pm.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Radha Pyati  
Secretary, Easttown EAC