

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

Thursday, October 28, 2021

The regular meeting was called to order at 7:01 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 Eugene Briggs, Township Manager.

Consideration of August 26, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes.

The September 23 minutes received three friendly amendments, which were approved 4-0 with a motion and a second, prior to Councilmember Doms's arrival via remote means. The amended minutes were approved 4-0 with a motion and second.

Discussion on the Postponement and Rescheduling of Water Quality Workshop.

The water quality workshop was postponed till spring 2022. Based upon the availability of Lauren McGrath of the Darby Creek Valley Association and of the Upper Main Line YMCA facility, Chairperson Rash will propose new dates: Thursday, February 3, 2022, followed by Wednesday, February 9.

Discussion on the Advertising of Workshops/Use of Homeowners Association Contacts/Shared Township Groups Series.

In an effort to advertise EAC workshops and activities more widely, the use of homeowners' association (HOA) contacts was discussed. Manager Briggs informed the EAC that it would be appropriate to ask HOA contact persons to include EAC activities in their posts. He will send EAC items to an HOA distribution list from an easttown.org email address. Councilmembers Hill and Pyati will divide the list of HOA phone numbers, call the contact persons, and request an HOA email address in order to generate a distribution list.

The EAC discussed a shared workshop series, shared with either Easttown Twp boards and commissions, or with the Tredyffrin EAC and groups of similar environmental interest. Partnership with TESD was considered, as was the development of an internship opportunity for a high school student.

Discussion on Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) 2022 Model Stormwater Management Ordinance.

Manager Briggs informed the EAC that Twp staff are working on this at present and there is nothing needed from the EAC at this time.

Discussion on In Community Magazine Article.

Edits to the draft were discussed, as well as an additional draft article by Councilmember Ellis on the MS4 process. The submission will consist of the edited draft, including articles on plastics and MS4, to be finalized before the November 5 deadline.

Discussion on Chester County Solid Waste Authority's Grant Opportunity.

Chairperson Rash described Chester County's grant opportunity for landfill diversion projects and will follow up by asking what kinds of projects they support. The 25% in-kind contribution required of grantees may need to be included in the Twp's budget.

Liaison Report: Board of Supervisors.

Chairperson Rash reported on the BOS. The BOS approved the single use plastics survey of businesses at their October 4 meeting. Chairperson Rash and Councilmember Hill are working to collect responses. The BOS will begin its budget process in November; Chairperson Rash and Councilmember Hill will attend.

Liaison Report: Planning Commission.

Councilmember Ellis reported on the PC. The PC had a special meeting on October 14 to go over proposed zoning ordinance amendments. Councilmember Ellis presented the EAC recommendation on beekeeping as it had been approved by the EAC. The changes to the beekeeping ordinance do not have strong community support. Noise, another community matter, will be discussed by the BOS.

Liaison Report: Parks and Recreation Board.

Councilmember Doms reported the following items from the Parks and Recreation Board. The P&R Board met at 7 pm on October 18, 2021 at the Easttown Township municipal building.

- The preparation and plating of the courtyard garden at Hilltop Park are planned for November 2021.
- The Easttown Township budget for 2022 is about \$4,000,000. It was discussed at the October meetings. In response to a question from a member of the Parks and Recreation Committee, Don Curley suggested that if there are particular budget items that the committee would like to see funded, they should speak about them at the upcoming meetings.
- Budget decisions will be made at the first meeting in December 2021.
- Mr. Curley further advised that the Parks and Recreation Committee capital requests might actually be best considered as part of the Recreation and Open Space plan.
- 12-year-old bike repair shop owner Dominic Pecora, <https://6abc.com/bicycle-student-entrepreneur-business/10663335/> presented a request for the installation of two pump parks (one for beginners and one for more experienced riders) on township property. Mr. Pecora was accompanied by his parents and four other students and a parent who supported the project. A pump track is a bicycle park that uses small berms and valleys to generate momentum. So that the rider does not pedal. The park can be built by volunteers. They showed a video of the pump track in Fairmount Park. <https://www.phillypumptrack.org/> It can be used by people of all ages. An area about the size of ½ football field would accommodate both parks. The following sites were suggested; a township owner property on Heatherwood Lane, Berwyn, Field of Dreams, Johnson Park, and Tredyffrin Township.
- Mr. Curley advised that this project would be submitted for inclusion in the Recreation and Open Space plan.

Single-use Plastics Survey of Businesses Update.

After the BOS approved the single-use plastics survey for businesses, Chairperson Rash and Councilmember Hill have distributed the survey through a variety of means to every retailer and restaurant in the Township. They have 41 responses in hand and expect more, eventually up to 80 businesses in Easttown Twp. Businesses seem to be supportive. EAC's goal has been legislation banning single-use plastics, and to that end, the EAC will consider survey results, sample ordinance language, other municipalities' single-use plastic practices, the pros and cons of a ban, and a possible speaker from Penn Environment.

Councilmember Doms shared notes on the October 6 presentation and dinner discussion with Maurice Sampson of Clean Water Action, the EAC's speaker on single-use plastics. Six members of the public

attended in person in addition to all five Easttown EAC members and their families. Eleven people attended by Zoom. The interesting talk given by Mr. Sampson generated a lot of questions. He provided information on the dangers of plastics and advocated that we shop carefully to avoid single use plastics. Heather Hill and Kate Doms dined with Mr. Sampson.

- He suggested merchants charge 15 cents per single use plastic bag.
- He stated that a 25-cent fee was high enough to eliminate single use plastic bags from Ireland.
- If Easttown was interested, we could hire Clean Water Action as a consultant on plastic use reduction and or a ban in the township.
- He suggested that the EAC consult with the township trash/recycling supervisor regarding the recycler contract.
- He pointed out that education on how and what to recycle is essential for residents.
- He was not a proponent for single stream recycling. Paper should be picked up separately.
- He recommended JP Mascaro and sons for a recycler. A family-owned company strongly committed to recycling and environmental education. <http://www.jpmascaro.com>

Compost Swap Program Update.

Councilmember Hill reported on the compost swap program. Trinity Presbyterian church is willing to proceed with the compost swap with Mother Compost, and details will be worked out soon. Trinity may reach out to St. Monica's and other area churches.

Spring Cleanup of Darby Creek Update.

Chairperson Rash spoke with Aurora of DCVA about their spring cleanup date, likely to be in April but no date set yet. DCVA is willing to serve as host and has supplies. The EAC must provide a cleanup captain who is responsible for picking up the supplies. The Twp and EAC pick the sites and coordinates the captains. There is no charge to the Twp; the Twp will pick up the trash. For the last cleanup, five sites on Twp-owned property were selected.

Tredyffrin/Easttown Environmental Advisory Council E-newsletter.

Chairperson Rash presented the idea of a shared Tredyffrin/Easttown EAC newsletter to the Tredyffrin EAC, and Manager Briggs shared it with the BOS. There are no anticipated costs to the Twp for this activity, and the process for reviewing and editing the content will be the same as for the In Community magazine submissions. The target timeframe for this e-newsletter will be in between the In Community magazine issues.

Report on Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) Summit on October 20, 2021.

Chairperson Rash reported on this summit, hosted by the Darby Creek Valley Association. EACs from Montgomery, Chester, and Delaware Counties were represented at this summit. We learned about some great ideas from our neighboring townships and boroughs.

- Tredyffrin Twp BOS adopted a resolution in 2019 to transition to clean energy.
- 13% of nearby townships or boroughs have integrated a green building into their comprehensive plans.
- Lower Merion Twp is installing solar panels on their library.
- 27% of nearby townships have solar energy systems on municipal buildings.
- Media has a township wide curbside composting option through Mother Compost.
- Nether Providence replaced all street lights with LED lights.
- Phoenixville has a project to convert waste water biosolids to biochar fuel.

- 50% of nearby townships or boroughs have begun to procure electric vehicles, hybrid vehicles or other alternatives.
- West Chester Borough has single use plastic ban that will be enforced starting January 1, 2022.
- Excited to learn that Delaware County funded part of the new Open Space Plan in Media, and to find that Chester County has similar grants posted on their website.

Open Space Plan Updates.

Councilmember Ellis noted that both the Easttown PC and P&R Board have approved the update plan with the EAC. Chairperson Rash noted that Media has just approved their Open Space Plan and has shared information on how they did it, including grants received from Delaware County and PECO. The ways that the Open Space Plan could dovetail with the MS4 requirements were discussed.

Recycling Styrofoam and Other Items.

Councilmember Hill suggested consideration of an event for the collection of Styrofoam, batteries, and other materials for recycling at a known location about an hour away.

Public Comment

There was no public comment at this time.

Announcements.

The next regularly scheduled meeting is Thursday, November 18, 2021, at 7:00 pm.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Radha Pyati
Secretary, Easttown EAC