

EAC Minutes
Tuesday, February 25, 2025 @ 7:00 PM

● **Attendance:**

EAC Members:

Ms. Gensemer, Ms. Garg, Ms. Hilyard, Mr. Aquilina, Mr. Meyers, Mr. Cram, Mr. Putkoski

Planned absences:

EAC Alternates: Ms. Lincoln, Ms. Goudie,

BOS: John Callahan, Martha Majewski

Admin: (none)

Public: Ms. Karen Guererro, Mr. Tom Heisey

● **Approve November 2024/Jan 2025 Summary**

Upon Motion by Ms. Gensemer, and seconded by Ms. Hilyard and Passed, the Environmental Advisory Council unanimously APPROVED the minutes.

● **Announcements**

o Introducing New Members

- Old/New Members to introduce themselves
- Ms. Garg introduces herself, Mr. Meyers introduces himself, Mr. Cram introduces himself, Ms. Gensemer introduces herself, Ms. Hilyard introduces herself, Ms. Lincoln introduces herself, Ms. Goudie introduces herself, Mr. Aquilina introduces himself.
- Mr. Callahan introduces himself, Ms. Majewski introduces herself.

o See Facebook [Schuylkill Township EAC | Facebook](#)

- Mr. Putkoski inquires about a resident that might be interested in a position on a commission.
- There is some discussion as to the status of openings on the EAC.
- Ms. Gensemer mentions she made a recent post about invasive plants. Mr. Aquilina notes another topic he will provide to Ms. Gensemer.
- There is some discussion as to whether trees of heaven will be taken down and what the methodology would be.

● **Discussion**

o Trail Committee

- Mr. Cram would like to reform a Trail Committee. He states they were all laid out on a map and were going to submit it to Chester County. Mr. Cram notes that the trails are not on the map. Ms. Majewski suggests that Mr. Cram could bring it to the Board and notes that the Regional Planning Commission is looking to connect.
- Mr. Cram inquires as to whether he should reform the committee and Mr. Callahan suggests waiting a few weeks.
- Mr. Cram explains that the purpose of the committee would be to look into where to put trails down. It involved Mr. Cram, Ms. Garg and Ms. Majewski.
- Mr. Cram will raise this topic at the next meeting.

● **Reports/Updates for Ongoing Projects**

o Bee City USA – KH

- Should we renew?

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- Ms. Hilyard notes that the annual report and dues are due at the end of this month. Ms. Hilyard reached out to Peter Bort who has left the township. Ms. Hilyard notes that she works on Bird Town and asks if someone else would like to focus on Bee City. There is more discussion of what would be involved in Bee City renewal. It's generally decided to wait one year to clarify the requirements.
- o Bird Town – KH
 - Ms. Hilyard describes a recent bluebird information webinar and describes what is involved in maintaining bluebird houses. Ms. Hilyard notes that there is an invasive plant webinar coming up as well.
- o Clean-up projects – EC
 - Mr. Cram asks for input about what stretches of road might need attention. Ms. Guerrero suggests Pawlings Rd and Mr. Cram says it's a potential good choice. Mr. Cram suggests that he is mostly unavailable around Earth Day and suggests something for May. There is some discussion about possible dates for the next clean up.
 - Mr. Putkoski suggests he can assist in the future.
 - Mr. Cram would like to pick a date and Ms. Majewski suggests coming up with two dates. There is some discussion about dates and April 5th or 6th are selected.
 - Litter cameras
 - there is discussion as to whether litter cameras should be placed in various sites for deterrent or enforcement and a review of several approaches to installing cameras.
 - Ms. Gensemer will revisit the topic with her contact. Approaching the chief of police is also an option.
- o Clean Energy- JM
 - Mr. Meyers recounts the July BOS workshop meeting and being unable to follow-up due to electrical fire in his home.
 - Mr. Meyers states that as of January he has begun resuming meetings with his multi township group.
 - Mr. Meyers explains that Schuylkill Township has been accepted into the new cohort of the 2025 program year for Shared Energy Manager through the Energy Programs Office of PA DEP.
 - Mr. Meyers would like Schuylkill Township to participate in the program and seeks permission and clarification to:
 - engage with Wilson Engineering
 - complete Preliminary Energy Management Survey
 - upload documents that were generated from the previous energy consultants
 - Mr. Meyers notes that East Pikeland participated previously and a few deliverables to East Pikeland were:
 - Solar PV case study educational material development.
 - Assistance with solar and EV ready model ordinances and codes.
 - Electric lawn equipment information.
 - List of Clean energy Projects for BOS proposal
- o DCNR Lawn conversion program- KH
 - Ms. Hilyard reports that Alyssa says there are no updates and to proceed as normal based on funding.

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- Ms. Goudie asks about DCNR and Ms. Hilyard provides an explanation and some background and her own experience.
- o Parks/Preserves EC
 - Pickering Preserve
 - Pickering Preserve Native Plant Diversity Project
 - o Mr. Cram provides an update on little free library and says it's successful and getting used.
 - o Mr. Cram describes the Native Plant Diversity Project from Penn State.
 - Mr. Cram states there is a monoculture of Golden Rod but we need other pollinators for the rest of the year.
 - Mr. Cram suggests a meadow mix, possibly on the butterfly garden site. Mr. Heisey notes that we could use the Ernst meadow mix. Mr. Cram describes some ongoing maintenance.
 - Ms. Guerro asks whether herbicide would be used and Mr. Cram says yes and describes the reasoning and an example that uses two applications of herbicide. Ms. Guerrero suggests more tilling as an alternative.
 - Mr. Aquilina suggests establishing next steps and Ms. Garg describes the process.
 - Ms. Majewski emphasizes that a 10x10 plot is big.
 - There is some discussion about seed plugs vs seed mix.
 - There is ongoing discussion as to the planting, prep and seeding.
 - Upon Motion by Mr.Cram, and seconded by Mr. Putkoski and Passed, the Environmental Advisory Council unanimously APPROVED Native Plant Diversity Project at the Pickering Preserve involving
 - o seed mix
 - o site preparation from Red Tail
 - o funds not to exceed \$500
 - Black Swallow Wort Control at Pickering
 - o Mr. Cram describes what Black Swallow Wort is, how toxic it is and how we want to eradicate it. Mr. Cram suggests having Red Tail use herbicide to eradicate the Black Swallow Wort and describes that there is a narrow time period to do it.
 - o Mr. Meyers suggests seeking clarification as to which herbicide to use.
 - o Ms. Guerrero suggests digging out instead of herbicide.
 - o Ms. Garg suggests asking Red Tail what they think about the status of the Swallow Wort.
 - o There is discussion as to the communication process with Red Tail and some extended discussion as to what Red Tail is doing.
 - Valley Park CA
 - Mr. Aquilina describes the tree giveaway.
 - Planting Saturday April 12th using free trees from K-10.
 - o ~40-50 trees.
 - o Last year only took a few hours with a group of 6.
 - o Invasive Removal Volunteer Morning – Behind TWP municipal building on May 10th.
 - Mr. Aquilina states that he got approval from Aqua to remove vines.

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- The time will be around 8:45am.
- Mr. Aquilina states that this needs to be advertised.
- Ms. Guerrero inquires about whether things can be planted and Ms. Majewski states that residents shouldn't plant.
- o Treasurer's Report MP
 - Administrative staff will provide Mr. Putkoski with what he needs to complete the Treasurer's Report.
- **Developments**
 - o None
- **New/Other Business**
 - o Next meeting March 25th, 7 PM

Meeting Adjournment: 8:40 PM