

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

• **Attendance:**

EAC:

Ms. Gensemer, Ms. Garg, Ms. Hilyard, Mr. Aquilina, Mr. Meyers, Mr. Putkoski, Mr. Cram,
Alternates: Ms. Goudie (absent).

Planned absences: Ms. Lincoln

BOS: Martha Majewski

John Callahan

Admin: Ms. Mitterer

Public: Ms. Karen Guerro, Mr. Tom Heisey

• **Approve February 2025 Summary**

Upon Motion by Mr. Putkoski and seconded by Mr. Aquila and Passed, the Environmental Advisory Council unanimously APPROVED the minutes.

• **Announcements**

- o Ms. Mitterer provides an overview about possible grant opportunities.
- o There is some discussion about trail feasibility.
 - Ms. Mitterer notes that the BOS is involved in planning.
 - Mr. Cram provides some history on trails and suggests that a trails committee should be formed to take another look. Mr. Cram notes that a trolley trail or freedom trail was under consideration.
 - Ms. Majewski provides some additional history and describes that they had a big map and planned out some trails.
 - Ms. Mitterer says any project related to a committee or trails would need to be led by EAC since there are a lot of other projects pending.
 - Mr. Cram notes that a map was created and submitted. There is some discussion about why the proposed trails weren't completed.
 - Mr. Putkoski inquires about voting to form a sub-committee.
 - There is some discussion about how to form a sub-committee and what possible restrictions or benefits might be. [7:21pm]
- o See Facebook [Schuylkill Township EAC | Facebook](#)
 - Ms. Gensemer summarized recent facebook activity.
- o Events and Webinars
 - Mr. Meyers mentions the following events and the idea of keeping track of upcoming events and webinars on agendas and during EAC meetings. Mr. Aquilina states that having these on the agenda would be worthwhile.
 - Chester County Sustainability Summit and Expo – Saturday, **May 17th**
 - Northern Chester County EAC Event – **April 12th**
 - Spring/Fall Regional EAC Conference

• **Discussion**

- o Trail Updates – **JC**
- o Matt to be promoted to Full Member - **JC**
 - Upon Motion by Mr. Meyers and seconded by Ms. Hilyard and Passed, the Environmental Advisory Council unanimously APPROVED Mr. Putkoski to be a full member of the EAC.

• **Reports/Updates for Ongoing Projects**

- o Bird Town – **KH**
- o Clean-up projects – **EC**
 - Pawling's Road Cleanup – **April 5th**.
 - Mr. Cram provides an overview and notes the flyer is out.
 - Ms. Majewski states that she will be driving the truck.
 - Mr. Cram further describes marketing for the effort including through litter lifters.
 - Mr. Cram suggests a future electronic sign-up would facilitate.
 - Mr. Cram confirms that it's a 7am start.
 - Ms. Gensemer inquires about age limits and there is some discussion with Ms. Majewski as to the age limitations.

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- The meeting point will be: 333 Pawlings Rd, Phoenixville, PA 19460 which is the Valley Forge Sewer Authority.
- Mr. Cram states that a photo should be taken.
- Upon Motion by Mr. Cram and seconded by Mr. Aquila and Passed, the Environmental Advisory Council unanimously APPROVED purchasing Grabbers for litter pick-up with a not to exceed cost of \$200
- o Clean Energy- JM
 - DEP Shared Energy Manager Program
 - Mr. Meyers recounts how a consultant from Wilson Engineering Services emailed him about the PA DEP Shared Energy Manager Program.
 - Mr. Meyers states that, after obtaining approval from township management, he uploaded documents from the VPP grant study to a folder for Wilson Engineering Services and sent them a completed survey.
 - An initial call with Wilson, Mr. Meyers, and Ms. Mitterer is in the process of being scheduled.
- o DCNR Lawn conversion program- KH
 - Ms. Hilyard says no update and that the contact (Alyssa) has suggested that federal money might still be available but there is no update as of yet.
 - Ms. Hilyard notes that her trees are starting to bud.
- o Parks/Preserves
 - Redtail JC
 - Mr. Callahan suggests the EAC have a priority list for RedTail so they will be assigned what work to do when.
 - Mr. Cram indicates that he doesn't know what RedTail did when they were last at Pickering. Mr. Cram further states that we should prioritize invasives for RedTail.
 - Ms. Guerrero states that she talks to RedTail personnel and they are unaware of a priority list.
 - Ms. Mitterer states that there should be a priority list that is voted on and provided to RedTail.
 - Pickering Preserve EC
 - Pickering Preserve Native Plant Diversity Project
 - Black Swallowwort Control at Pickering
 - o Mr. Cram talks about the diversity program for swallowwort. He inquires about seeking budgetary guidance on herbicide application from RedTail. There is some discussion as to the flow of communication. Mr. Cram will contact Greg of RedTail and copy Mr. Aquilina.
 - o Ms. Guererro suggests that the RedTail contract should be reviewed. There is some discussion between Ms. Guerrero and Ms. Mitterer about making recommendations to EAC about RedTail regarding invasives.
 - o Ms. Majewski states that the township has 46 acres and \$10,000 to manage it and suggests creating a priority list for RedTail.
 - o Mr. Aquilina requests additional priorities from EAC members.
 - o Mr. Cram describes that he picked up trash in the preserve and reshingled the bird houses. He notes that some behavioral science books are in the mini free library.
 - o Mr. Aquilina asks about bird boxes and Mr. Cram says it's too late for wood duck nesting boxes and describes the status of other bird boxes.
 - o There is some discussion about budgeting and bird boxes and whether a motion should be made. It needs to be on the agenda to be voted on.
 - Valley Park CA
 - Planting canceled due to K10 not having trees spring.
 - o Mr. Aquilina explains that the request didn't go in in time to secure trees and says this will be postponed until Fall.
 - Would like to organize a day to check last years plantings.
 - o Ms. Garg suggests using the date to pull tree tubes.
 - o Ms. Majewski suggests sharing on facebook and elsewhere so the public can be involved in the plantings.

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- Ms. Mitterer notes that they township is planning to remove the two dead trees at front of parking lot.
- Invasive Removal Volunteer Morning – Behind TWP municipal building on **May 10th**.
 - Mr. Aquilina describes the event and notes that Ms. Gensemer is working on a flyer. Mr. Aquilina says Aqua will supply bags and materials. Mr. Aquilina is unsure how many people and Ms. Majewski says to say a dozen. Ms. Mitterer suggests she could try doing a sign-up genius for this.
 - Ms. Mitterer notes that people will sign waivers for this event.
 - Ms. Hilyard inquires as to whether there would be trash to pick up. Mr. Cram says the township might get credit for a clean up.
 - Mr. Aquilina will ask Aqua what to do with bags of vines etc afterwards.
- Treasurer's Report **MP**
 - Mr. Putkoski summarizes the budget on EAC Approved 2025 Budget.
 - Ms. Hilyard describes Bee City fees and the status of the organization in the township.
 - \$7500 is contingent on DCNR coming through.
 - Mr. Putkoski suggests \$1000 for ordinance consulting might not be needed if the Shared Energy Manager program comes through.
 - Mr. Putkoski notes some line items that
- **Developments**
 - None
- **Public Participation**
 - Mr. Heisey describes bird counts. He suggests doing the count at the Reeves property and is inquiring as to whether it would be open to the public. Mr. Heisey clarifies that it would be one person twice per year. Ms. Mitterer asks for an email on this topic and she will bring it before the board.
- **New/Other Business**
 - Ms. Majewski notes that she and Ms. Mitterer went to a meeting and discussed solid waste. Ms. Majewski describes that everyone was interested in textile recycling and Helpsy (the organization doing the recycling) is now doing curb-side pick-up. Ms. Majewski indicates that publicizing the curb-side pick-up to residents is in the works. There is further discussion about what Helpsy does.
 - Next meeting April 22nd, 7 PM

Estimated Meeting Adjournment: 9PM

Adjourned 8:15pm