

**EAC Minutes**  
**Tuesday, April 22, 2025 @ 7:00 PM**

- **Attendance:**

- EAC:**

- Ms. Gensemer, Ms. Garg, Ms. Hilyard, Mr. Aquilina, Mr. Meyers, Mr. Putkoski, Mr. Cram, Ms. Goudie, Ms. Lincoln, Mr. Lott.  
Planned absences: Mr. Cram

- BOS:**

- Jonh Callahan

- Admin:**

- Public:** Karen Guererro

- **Minutes**

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

- **Announcements**

- o Welcoming Jeremie Lott to the EAC.
    - EAC members introduce themselves to Mr. Lott
    - Mr. Lott introduces himself. He lived in DC and northern Virginia
    - Mr. Callahan introduces himself.
    - Ms. Guerrero introduces herself.
  - o See Facebook [Schuylkill Township EAC | Facebook](#)
    - Ms. Garg states that Ms. Gensemer posted about Earth Day.
    - There is some discussion as to whether a link to the Facebook page is on the township website.
  - o Events and Webinars
    - Chester County Sustainability Summit and Expo – Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup>
    - Spring/Fall Regional EAC Conference
    - PA Master Naturalist Training
      - Ms. Hilyard describes the training and stated that she did it in 2016 in part to find a place to volunteer.
        - Ms. Hilyard recommends the program.
        - Mr. Hilyard further states that there is one in Montgomery County, Chester County and that she did hers in Philadelphia.
    - BOS Workshop: Ms. Guerrero states that there is a workshop for a master planner to give a presentation as part of a possible future grant application. The workshop is this Thursday 4/24. Mr. Callahan provides an overview of the workshop and future process.
      - Mr. Aquilina asks about EAC involvement and Mr. Callahan says it's very early in the process.
  - o Grant Opportunities
    - Mr. Aquilina states he isn't aware of any current grant opportunities.

- **Discussion**

- o Discussion and Possible Motion for the following budget items: (see below)

- **Reports/Updates for Ongoing Projects**

- o Bird Town – KH
    - no updates
  - o Clean-up projects – EC
    - Update on Pawling's Road Cleanup
      - Mr. Aquilina provides an overview of the trash pick-up.
    - Fall Cleanup on Pothouse Road.

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- Mr. Aquilina states that Earl wants to plan a Pothouse Rd clean up.
- Discussion of a trail camera and/or sign to install at the composting yard to deter dumping
  - Mr. Putkoski notes that we underspent on litter grabbers. There is some discussion of funds for litter cameras.
  - There is some discussion of decoy cameras to reduce the need to monitor. Mr. Meyers states he has decoy cameras that he would donate.
- o Township Building Renovation - JM
  - Mr. Callahan says they are waiting for another round of architectural refinements. He states that the meeting room might be expanded in the new sketch.
  - Mr. Callahan provides an overview of some of the alternative ideas for larger meetings or events.
- o Clean Energy- JM
  - DEP Shared Energy Manager Program
    - Mr. Meyers provided a summary of the April 9th meeting about Schuylkill Township participating in the Shared Energy Manager program. Mr. Meyers states:
      - o The meeting was attended by three people from Wilson Engineering Services, Ms. Mitterer, Ms. Getz, and Mr. Meyers.
      - o There was discussion of the SEM Program introduction, program goals, and scope with examples from other townships.
      - o There was discussion of current priorities of the township including the renovation of the building, funding opportunities, and electrification of heat and transportation.
      - o There was additional discussion about township options for energy suppliers.
      - o The main action items and areas of focus were determined to be
        - Review of Municipal Complex Renovation Project to look at energy and incentive opportunities
        - Incentive support for new EV charging station
        - EV Ordinance model language
        - Review Constellation energy supply contract
        - Funding or guidance for EV fleet conversion
- 
- o DCNR Lawn conversion program- KH
  - Ms. Hilyard states no updates
- o Parks/Preserves
  - Redtail
    - Priorities
      - o Pale and Black Swallow-wort in Pickering Preserve - EC
      - o Mr. Aquilina discusses potential priorities for Red Tail.
        - Ms. Guerrero states her concern is with dumping.
      - o Mr. Meyers asks about communication.
        - Ms. Garg states that she gets an email after Red Tail arrives or the day of.
        - She further states she should would like them just to work on the Swallow-wort.
        - Ms. Garg suggests giving Red Tail a target date to complete the work.
        - Ms. Garg also asks about the trees at Pickering.

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- Ms. Guerrero states one tree is dead and doesn't think the girdling removal worked. There is more discussion about the trees in that area.
  - o Mr. Aquilina suggests exploring some alternatives.
    - Mr. Aquilina states there is a company in King of Prussia that might be a candidate.
    - There is some discussion of Mountain Arborist.
  - o Upon Motion by Ms. Garg and seconded by Mr. Aquilina. and Passed, the Environmental Advisory Council unanimously APPROVED to direct Red Tail to focus on Swallow Wort to remove by digging and bagging.
- Contract Renewal
  - o There is extended discussion about possible alternatives to Red Tail and creating an RFP.
- Pickering Preserve **EC**
  - Mr. Aquilina and Mr. Putkoski agree to postpone discussion on these expenses.
  - Mr. Putkoski states we have \$3300 available for bird related supplies.
    - o Discussion and possible motion to purchase 4 Wood Duck nesting boxes along the Creek - \$400
    - o Discussion and possible motion to purchase 3 additional native bird boxes to replace those already in the lower Preserve - \$100
    - o Discussion and possible motion to purchase Supplies for maintaining existing native bird boxes - \$100
    - o Discussion and possible motion to purchase Owl box- \$200
    - o Discussion and possible motion to purchase Bat box- \$500
  - There is some discussion about approving these funds now for installation in the Fall since many of these should be installed in the Spring.
  - These items will stay on the agenda.
- Valley Park **CA**
  - Mr. Aquilina Would like to try to get the outline of Valley Park and Pickering Preserve on Google Maps. He will make an attempt to do that.
  - Volunteer day to look at last years plantings.
    - o Ms. Garg and potentially others will look this Friday or May 2nd.
  - Discussion of improving replacing Education/signage - \$500
    - o Mr. Aquilina asks about weathered signs but they have been fixed. There is some discussion about updating the information, how that would work and who would do it.
    - o Mr. Putkoski asks whether a motion is required and there is discussion about whether there is an expense involved. It is clarified that the sign boxes don't need changing, just the content inside.
    - o There is some discussion as to what to put into the boxes. Callery Pair is suggested.
      - There is some discussion about whether they can be removed in Sedgely Farms.
  - Ms. Guerrero talks about dying ash trees in Valley Park and notes that she found some ash samplings.
- o Invasive Removal Volunteer Morning – Behind TWP municipal building on **May 10<sup>th</sup>**.
  - Mr. Aquilina notes that this is an EAC volunteer event and that everyone should bring their own tools.
- o Treasurer's Report **MP**
  - Mr. Putkoski states that the EAC spent less than \$50 on litter grabbers.

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- Ms. Hilyard went to a presentation about owls in Haverford that was excellent and that she might be a good candidate for a community presentation. Ms. Hilyard would like to reach out to find out what her costs are for a possible event.
- Mr. Aquilina states that we should start budgeting for the Fall tree giveaway now.
  - Mr. Aquilina and Ms. Hilyard discuss possible tree source preferences.
    - o Ms. Hilyard states that we should have a sign-up genius for the Fall tree giveaway.
- Ms. Goudie suggests rainwater or composting as possible future educational presentation topics.
- Mr. Aquilina went to a native plant presentation recently.
- Mr. Putkoski notes that there is \$1000 for educational purposes.
- Ms. Hilyard gathered information about a raptor presentation.
- **Developments**
  - o None
- **New/Other Business**
  - o NCC-EAC Gathering
    - o Mr. Meyers notes that he attended the Northern Chester County EAC gathering in Chester Springs on April 12th, the theme was clean energy and there were three speakers. Mr. Meyers notes that NCC-EAC meetings are held periodically and provide a good opportunity to meet and talk with people from other EACs.
  - o Ms. Garg asks Mr. Callahan about the trail projects.
    - o Mr. Callahan provides an overview about the Freedom Trail and sidewalk projects which are dormant for now.
    - o He stated a number of issues with trying to put the trails in.
    - o Connecting Freedom with Valley Forge might still be an option.
    - o Mr. Callahan noted another possible trail option but that it's not practical.
    - o He stated that there isn't really a good place for a trail.
    - o Mr. Callahan cited Devault trail and French Creek trail that might have some possibilities.
  - o Next meeting May 27th, 7 PM

Estimated Meeting Adjournment: 9PM  
Adjourned at 8:19pm.