

**EAC Minutes**  
**Tuesday, May 27, 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:

**BOS:**

Jonn Callahan (absent)

Martha Majewski

**Admin:** Valentina Mitterer

**Public:** Karen Guerro

• **Minutes**

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

• **Announcements**

- o See Facebook [Schuylkill Township EAC | Facebook](#)
  - There is a brief exchange about the facebook page.
- o Events and Webinars
  - Chester County Sustainability Summit and Expo
    - Mr. Meyers states that the event seemed successful and though he doesn't have an after-action report, the event seemed well attended and well organized.
  - Spring/Fall Regional EAC Conference
    - Mr. Meyers reports that there will be a Fall Regional EAC Conference somewhere in southeastern PA and that WeConservePA put out an email requesting a proposal to host.
- o Grant Opportunities [addressed later in meeting]

• **Discussion**

• **Reports/Updates for Ongoing Projects**

- o Fall Tree Giveaway
  - Prepare budget, species and quantities of trees, and sign up.
    - Mr. Aquilina indicates that he would like to start planning soon including types of trees, sign-up process and other details.
    - Ms. Mitterer suggests some kind of electronic sign-up process would be possible but may want to consider the size of the event and how that relates to the process.
    - Ms. Goudie asks a bit about the sign-up process. Ms. Mitterer explains how the sign-up and species selection process worked last year vs previous year. Ms. Goudie suggests asking people to follow the facebook page. There is some discussion about some minor issues with the process last year.
    - Ms. Hilyard provides an update about two different tree sources.
    - Mr. Putkoski reminds everyone that the budget is \$2500. He further suggests an educational component. Ms. Hilyard elaborates on the idea of having activities during the tree distribution. There is some discussion about linking food donation to tree distribution.
    - There is more discussion about the potential tree selection.
- o Fall Educational Talk
  - potential topics
    - Compost
    - Rain Barrel
    - Bluebird Box
    - Owl/Hawk
  - Mr. Aquilina asks whether anyone explored the potential topics for the Fall educational talk. Ms. Goudie indicates that she will work on a few topics and may coordinate with Ms. Hilyard.

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- Ms. Majewski notes that Mike McGrath did an event previously at the Country Club that was well attended. There is some discussion as to the availability of the Country Club for events. Ms. Majewski will look into Mike McGrath as a potential event.
- o Bird Town – **KH**
  - Ms. Hilyard states that a county in Illinois passed an ordinance to require bird safe glass. Ms. Hilyard asks about the possibility of using bird proof glass in the township building when it's renovated. Some discussion ensues about bird-proofing techniques.
- o DCNR Lawn conversion program- **KH**
  - Ms. Hilyard has no updates.
- o Clean-up projects – **EC**
  - Fall Cleanup on Pothouse Road.
  - Mr. Cram asks if there is much trash on Pothouse Road and whether Ms. Majewski would be available to drive the truck. Mr. Cram suggests a date after the first frost in October. He thinks PA would provide bags etc. Ms. Garg asks about what part of Pothouse and Mr. Cram clarifies the area he has in mind. Ms. Majewski and Mr. Cram discuss some previous and future traffic planning as it relates to the areas under consideration.
  - Fake Camera in Compost Yard – with a sign informing people are being recorded
    - Ms. Majewski explains that there has been some illegal dumping taking place. There is discussion about whether real or fake cameras would be useful. Ms. Mitterer states this is not a problem at this time.
- o Township Building Renovation - **JM**
  - Ms. Mitterer states that they are still finalizing the layout. There is some exchange between Ms. Mitterer and Mr. Aquilina about other matters including stormwater and when that will be under discussion. Ms. Guerrero asks about moving open space lines. Ms. Mitterer emphasizes that there are no final plans.
- o Clean Energy- **JM**
  - DEP Shared Energy Manager Program
    - Mr. Meyers mentions email correspondence between Wilson Engineering and township management regarding:
      - Latest drawing package and scope of work for the Municipal Complex Renovation project - Mr. Meyers states Ms. Mitterer responded that no finalized drawing is available as of yet.
      - Constellation energy supply contract - Mr. Meyers says this was provided by Ms. Mitterer
      - Fleet List update - we have a 2022 fleet list but it does not include the Ford Mach-E mentioned on the call (put in service ~9/2024) - Mr. Meyers says an updated list was provided by Ms. Mitterer
    - Mr. Meyers further states that Wilson engineering is exploring grant opportunities.
    - Mr. Meyers notes that Wilson engineering asked about updated mileage data for the newer fleet vehicles (2022 or newer - 3 police vehicles, the Ford Mach-E, Road Dept. F350) and any preliminary architectural drawings.
    - Mr. Meyers mentions the possibility of an EV ordinance and there is an extended exchange about ordinance updating processes and priorities. Ms. Mitterer notes that there was a recent BOS workshop about ordinances.
- o Parks/Preserves
  - Redtail
    - Priorities
      - Pale and Black Swallow-wort in Pickering Preserve – **EC**
        - Mr. Cram states that there are probably about 1000 Black Swallow-wort plants in the preserve.
        - Mr. Cram describes meeting up with Red Tail and pointing out the plants and that they are in blossom. Mr. Cram states that it's an optimal time to apply an herbicide. Mr. Cram says it's not practical to dig them up. He states he dug up over 150 of them and they are growing back.
        - Mr. Cram states that Red Tail has two Glyphosate products. He describes how current Glyphosate is different than how it used to be in terms of

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persistence. Mr. Cram states that Black Swallow-wort is deadly to monarchs and other wildlife.

- Mr. Cram is concerned we are helping it spread with the Spring mow since each plant produces 10,000 seeds. Mr. Cram requests that we allow Red Tail to use herbicide.
- Ms. Guerrero asks about tarping the area. Mr. Cram describes the dense area of Swallow-wort.
- Mr. Cram notes that there is another place where the plants are growing.
- There is extended discussion about the conditions for Red Tail to use herbicide.

- o Upon Motion by Mr. Aquilina and seconded by Mr. Putkoski and Passed, the Environmental Advisory Council unanimously APPROVED Red Tail to use herbicide on Black Swallow-wort with the following conditions and requirements:
  - an applicator number must be provided
  - signage must be provided for the treated area
  - the area must be allowed to dry
  - the township will notify the public
  - specifics on mixing will be provided to Mr. Cram or a township representative
  - the name of the product will be provided to Mr. Cram or a township representative
  - the applicator will be registered
  - there will be favorable weather during treatment
  - Mr. Cram will be on site to observe (if available)
  - there will be a proposed date and second date
  - the plants will be spot sprayed (not broadcast sprayed)
  - no more than 2 gallons will be used
  - Red Tail will consider alternatives to glyphosate

- Contract Renewal
  - o RFP for next year.
  - o Mr. Putkoski asks about the possibility of replacing Red Tail and what best practices would be in terms of vetting other companies.
  - o Ms. Mitterer asks about what the EAC is unhappy with and some examples are provided.
  - o There is ongoing discussion about Red Tail, the parks, and the possibilities of alternatives for park management as well as funding.

- Pickering Preserve **EC**
  - Plant Diversification Project Update
  - Upon Motion by Ms. Garg and seconded by Mr. Aquilina and Passed, the Environmental Advisory Council unanimously APPROVED the EAC to purchase 4 Wood Duck nesting boxes along the Creek - \$400
  - The following items were considered but postponed:
    - 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
    - o Discussion and possible motion to purchase purple martin box -

- Valley Park **CA**
  - Updating/replacing education signage
    - o Mr. Aquilina explains that the EAC decided to replace these. Ms. Lincoln states that she will help work on the content for this.
  - Update on last years planting - **MG**
    - o Ms. Garg describes that during the vine removal, she observed the "white bud" is dead and that the trees are at 50% survival rate but things looked good overall.

- o Treasurer's Report **MP**

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- **Developments**
  - None
- **New/Other Business**
  - Ms. Goudie asks whether there is a line item for education for the Fall event.
  - Mr. Putkoski notes that the tree giveaway budget stands at \$2500 and there is some brief discussion about it.
  - Next meeting June 24th, 7 PM

Meeting Adjournment: 8:45PM