

Final Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, June 24, 2025 @ 7:00 PM

(check Karen H's notes by email)

• Attendance:

EAC:

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

Planned absences: Ms. Hilyard, Ms Lincoln, Ms Goudie.

BOS: Jonn Callahan

Admin:

Public: Karen Guerro

• Minutes

o Upon Motion by Mr. Aquilina and seconded by Mr. Putkoski and Passed, the Environmental Advisory Council unanimously APPROVED the minutes from the May meeting.

• Announcements

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

- Ms. Gensemer mentions a post by Bee City that helped identify different bee types.

o Events and Webinars

- Spring/Fall Regional EAC Conference
- Environmental and Energy Advisory Board Meeting for Chester County - Wednesday, July 23 2:30 – 4:00pm
 - fourth Wednesday of the month, quarterly, 2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.,
 - Mr. Meyers describes that this is a public monthly meeting.
- Valley Forge area bird town clutch meeting scheduled for 7/14

o Grant Opportunities

- The 2025 Healing the Planet Grant Program
 - Mr. Aquilina provides an overview.

• Discussion

• Reports/Updates for Ongoing Projects

o Fall Tree Giveaway

- Prepare budget, species and quantities of trees, and sign up.
- Mr. Aquilina provides an update.

o Fall Educational Talk

- Compost - Mr. Aquilina says no updates
- Rain Barrel Workshop – July Meeting **AG**
- Ms. Goudie will have an update in July.

o Clean-up projects – **EC**

- Fall Cleanup on Pothouse Road.
- Mr. Cram is awaiting an update from the fire police.
- Fake Camera in Compost Yard – with a sign informing people are being recorded
 - This is a holdover item from previous agendas and it is decided that this is currently not a pressing issue.

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- o Township Building Renovation
 - Clean Energy - JM
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 - DEP Shared Energy Manager Program
 - Sustainable Energy Partnership (SEP) - Mr. Meyers explains what this is:
 - In 2023 Chester County joined Bucks, Delaware, and Montgomery counties in the creation of the Sustainable Energy Partnership
 - o a consortium that purchases electricity and renewable energy for county operations.
 - o Since then our four counties have been purchasing electricity for county operations on the wholesale market of PJM (our regional transmission organization) using a managed portfolio approach that allows the counties to meet three established goals:
 - Meet a 100% renewable energy target for county operations by 2035 through access to large-scale renewables with regional benefits,
 - Lower energy costs and lower budget risk; and
 - Grow SEP membership by onboarding additional public entities as members of the portfolio.
 - Wilson Engineering - Mr. Meyers highlights the role of Wilson Engineering in explaining the SEP.
 - o Township management would need to review the Memorandum of Understanding and be prepared for a five-year commitment.
 - o Follow-up documents from the Office Hours presentation (Energy 101 presentation) are expected to be sent out this week.
 - o A few snips of slides are below and I have attached the MOU if you do not yet have a copy.
 - Mr. Meyers describes an Email from Rachel Griffith, Sustainability Director Chester County Planning Commission about the SEP
 - o Q&A session July 10 from 1-2pm
 - o Info requested by July 14, 2025
 - o Memo of Understanding
- o Parks/Preserves
 - Redtail
 - Priorities
 - o Pale and Black Swallow-wort in Pickering Preserve Update – EC
 - o Mr. Cram provides an overview of the Red Tail visit to Pickering.
 - He states that Red Tail only brought 2 gallons of herbicide which only covered the side of the road.
 - Mr. Cram describes that the main part of the Swallow-wort was not treated and that only 2% may have been treated.
 - He displays a warning sign that was used and it's a small hand written note.
 - Mr. Cram further states that he pulled about 1000 teasel plants while he was there.

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- Mr. Cram describes another area that has other invasives and raised the question as to who is responsible— the sewer authority or another entity.
- Mr. Cram provides some history on how sewer authority cleared the area without proper authorization and created a type of dam.
- Mr. Cram reiterates that we need to get rid of the invasives in that area.
- Some discussion ensues about Red Tail's methods and what they should do in the near future.
- Mr. Putkoski raises the idea of committing funds for future remediation of the Swallow-wort.
- There is further discussion about various methods to deal with the Swallow-wort.
- Mr. Putkoski returns to the discussion as to how to fund a plan to deal with the Swallow-wort.
- Mr. Aquilina seeks clarification as to who would mechanically remove the swallow-wort or tarp the area.
- There is some discussion about Weeds Inc and what they have done and could do.
- Contract Renewal
 - RFP for next year.
 - There is discussion about when Red Tail contract renews, whether it can be terminated or not renewed and possibly having them do some short term work.
 - Upon Motion by Mr. Cram and seconded by Mr. Putkoski and Passed, the Environmental Advisory Council unanimously APPROVED the decision to not renew the Township landscaping contract with Red Tail.
 - There is more extended discussion about how to proceed and it's decided that EAC members will reach out to other vendors to walk through Pickering and possibly give quotes.
 - Mr. Cram mentions some issues with signs at Pickering that border the Y. One is damaged; a few are missing. There is some discussion as to who is responsible, the township or the Y.
- Pickering Preserve **EC**
 - Plant Diversification Project Update
- Valley Park
 - Signs to be reviewed at July meeting **AL**
 - The educational materials will be discussed in July.
 - Ms. Guerro mentions there are some Ash seedlings and suggests using some fencing to protect some of them. There is some discussion as to what kind of fencing is on hand vs. whether any more should be purchased. It is stated that there is some plastic fencing in storage.
- Treasurer's Report **MP**
 - Mr. Putkoski provides an overview.

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- The wood duck boxes are approved. There is some discussion about installation in the Fall.
- He will be absent from the July meeting.
- **Developments**
 - Pohlig/Reeves property – assessment of plants on the property?
 - Mr. Aquilina asks Mr. Callahan about Pohlig/Reeves and Mr. Callahan would like the EAC to focus on Valley Park and Pickering for now. There is some discussion about an assessment of Pohlig/Reeves. Mr. Callahan describes that a master planner is being sought and that questions will be resolved at that time.
- **New/Other Business**
 - Next meeting July 22nd, 7 PM

Meeting Adjourned: 8:22pm