

EAC Minutes
Tuesday, August 26, 2025 @ 7:00 PM

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• **Planned Attendance:**

EAC:

Ms. Garg, Mr. Aquilina, Mr. Meyers, Mr. Cram, Ms. Hilyard, Ms Lincoln, Ms Goudie.

Planned absences: Mr. Lott, Ms. Gensemer

Absent: Mr. Putkosk

BOS:

Jonn Callahan

Admin:

Public: Karen Guerrero

• **July Minutes approval**

- o Ms. Goudie notes that the Red Tail section of the July minutes could be better summarized. There is some discussion of adjusting the minutes and approving them at the September meeting. It is decided to postpone approval.

• **Announcements**

- o See Facebook [Schuylkill Township EAC | Facebook](#)
 - Ms. Gensemer is not present and no one reported on any recent posts.
- o Events and Webinars
 - Mr. Callahan notes there will be a BOS workshop meeting about Sedgley on August 28th.
 - Mr. Meyers reports that the Environmental and Energy Advisory Board met July 23rd and mostly talked about the Chester County Climate Action Plan, how much it should be updated, and what the priorities in that update should be.
 - Mr. Meyers reports an update on the EAC Fall Gathering. It will be held in Chester County and will be hosted by the Chester County Planning Commission. The gathering will take place during the first part of November. Date and location details are forthcoming.
 - There is an agenda planning survey to seek input for the event.
 - The event is described as a 1-day, in-person training & networking event for Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) members, municipal staff & elected officials.
- o Grant Opportunities
 - No one reports anything.

• **Discussion**

- o 7:18 Mr. Aquilina suggests discussing the budget for next year. Mr. Putkoski states that we have underspent. A 2026 draft budget worksheet is brought up on the screen.
 - \$2500 more for tree giveaway is suggested by Mr. Aquilina
 - \$4000 is suggested for Pickering Preserve by Mr. Cram and is put under special projects
 - Ms. Goudie suggests \$1000 for community workshops
 - \$200 will be added for memberships (Bee City etc)
 - There is some discussion about Bee City and Bird Town and the fees and criteria.
 - o Ms. Hilyard expresses that Bird Town is a greater priority.
- Mr. Cram suggests a few hundred dollars for bird houses.
- Ms. Hilyard and Mr. Cram discuss purple martin house maintenance and suggest funds be added to the budget.
- The full list of items is presented on the screen including everything above except \$5000 for special maintenance with the total being \$8700.
- Upon Motion by Mr. Aquilina and seconded by Mr. Putkoski and Passed, the Environmental Advisory Council unanimously APPROVED the 2026 EAC Budget.

• **Reports/Updates for Ongoing Projects**

o Fall Tree Giveaway CA Nov 1

- Mr. Aquilina provides an overview of the following:
 - Discussion on budget for giveaway (~100 trees with tree tubes/stakes?)

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- Ocotaro Nursery: #2 pot trees
- Species are discussed with the intent to have 4 or 5. They included:
 - Sweetbay Magnolia
 - Fringetree
 - Chinkapin Oak
 - Black Gum
 - Persimmon
- Valentina to get quote from Octoraro
- Mr. Aquilina suggests that the event may not be in the newsletter and we should get a flyer out.
- 7:33pm Mr. Aquilina returns to the tree giveaway and budgeting. He suggests \$2500 for trees and tubes and possibly adding more for shipping. Mr. Aquilina suggests \$2800 along with Ms. Hilyard.
- Upon Motion by Ms. Garg and seconded by Mr. Aquilina and Passed, the Environmental Advisory Council unanimously APPROVED the \$2800 for the tree giveaway.
- Mr. Putkoski raises the idea of a drawing for assistance in planting.
- o Spring Educational Talk
 - Rain Barrel Workship **AG**
 - Ms. Goudie tables this for today.
- o Clean-up projects – Need someone else to set up?
 - Fall Cleanup on Pothouse Road **Oct 25**
 - Mr. Aquilina raises the idea of someone else taking over the clean up projects.
 - Mr. Cram raises the possibility of another clean up project that would not involve the fire police which is what complicates the planning.
 - Mr. Cram describes the coastal cleanup project. He notes that there was a sizable amount of mile-a-minute weed at Pickering Preserve and that there could be a clean-up project for that. Mr. Cram also suggests doing a clean-up near the right-of-way near Pickering. Mr. Cram describes that mile-a-minute weed releases seeds after first frost so Oct 25 would be too late. He suggests September 27th.
 - Mr. Putkoski asks whether there is ongoing need for help. Mr. Cram says he can make time to get equipment for September 27th. This can likely start at 9am.
 - Ms. Hilyard reminds that Ms. Mitterer can send out an email.
- o Township Building Renovation
 - Clean Energy
 - Mr. Meyers reports that Valentina emailed the team at Wilson Engineering to let everyone know that construction documents are nearly complete and so it's a good time to schedule a meeting involving the architect and Wilson Engineering. It appears that everyone is emailing to coordinate a call.
- o Clean Energy- **JM**
 - DEP Shared Energy Manager Program
 - Sustainable Energy Partnership
 - Mr. Meyers and Mr. Callahan discuss the status of the SEP. Mr. Callahan suggests the township may want to monitor the SEP over time before feeling comfortable joining.
- o Parks/Preserves
 - Redtail Update **JC**
 - 7:10pm there is some discussion about the Red Tail renewal process from the last meeting.
 - 7:50 Mr. Callahan talks about what Red Tail has accomplished such as removing Japanese stiltgrass from Valley Park. An email is brought up on the screen. Mr. Callahan reads an email from Greg summarizing some of the recent work they did.
 - Ms. Guerrero talks about some of the invasives that need attention and that Red Tail's approach seems piecemeal. There is a suggestion of planting some things to replace some of the invasives. There is discussion around what types of plants to obtain.
 - Mr. Callahan notes that Red Tail will have their seasonal plan ready by the next meeting.
 - Mr. Aquilina says that Brandywine Conservancy native garden hub has a native plant finder. He shows <https://www.brandywine.org/conservancy/blog/brandywine-native-garden-hub> on the screen.
 - Pickering Preserve **EC**

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- Mr. Cram states that he sent out information on the wood duck boxes including costs. He states that posts should be set. Mr. Putkoski reminds that the costs have been approved. Mr. Cram wants to take the October 25th date as a time to set up the wood duck boxes.
- Funds available for Purple Martin Boxes through Bird Town/PA Game Commission
 - Discussion about placement of Cavity nesting boxes at Pickering
 - Ms. Hilyard describes meeting with Stephan from PA when they discussed the possible locations, as well as house style and informative signage. Ms. Hilyard notes that she circulated a summary with maps. She suggests we sign up as pairs of people to perform maintenance. Ms. Hilyard describes how to lower the houses, fill out a sheet of information, remove sparrow nests, and otherwise maintain the houses. There is some brief discussion about house sparrows. Ms. Hilyard describes winter storage of the poles and houses. Mr. Cram describes an approach that Amish take involving using plugs. Ms. Hilyard says Stephan says plugs are not necessary. She states it's possible to get purple martins the first year.
 - There is some discussion about involving the community, publicizing the house, and providing signage.
 - Ms. Garg asks about the second location and Ms. Hilyard describes the need to change the mow plan if the second spot is selected. Ms. Garg is concerned about the proximity to the road. Mr. Cram suggests that police use that parking lot and it might dissuade vandalism. Ms. Guerrero asks about whether anyone should talk to the neighbors of the property. It is suggested that the neighbors could be talked to and possibly the Stove Shop.
 - Mr. Callahan suggests the plan should be presented to the board. Ms. Goudie asks why the board needs approval if the funds were approved and Mr. Callahan notes that it involves placing something on property. There is some additional discussion about maintenance.
 - Ms. Goudie asks about the cement and hole digging process.
- Upon Motion by Ms. Garg and seconded by Mr. Aquilina and Passed, the Environmental Advisory Council unanimously APPROVED for the purple martin house project to be brought before the BOS.
- Site walk with Terra Donna Gardens EC/CA/JM
 - Mr. Meyers describes the background of Terra Donna Gardens.
 - Mr. Cram said he was impressed with them and that they had a good perspective on evaluating plants and how to address certain areas.
 - Mr. Aquilina, Mr. Cram, and Mr. Meyers further describe the walkthrough with Terra Donna Gardens.
- Mr. Aquilina notes that he reached out to a company allied Indigenous Ingenuities.
- Mr. Cram states that he reached out to Penn State about the swallow-wort and they confirmed the time frame to attack it. There is some discussion about getting quotes for herbicide application.
- Valley Park
 - Educational signs **AL**
 - Ms. Lincoln states that she wants to redo all the signage.
 - Ms. Guerrero says the anti-girdling project may have helped.
 - 8:40pm there is a return to discussion about needing board approval for tree planting in Valley Park.
- Treasurer's Report
 - Mr. Putkoski says the EAC has spent \$112 dollars. Various EAC members note some upcoming expenses.
 - Mr. Putkoski raises the idea of having a raffle for a larger tree.
 - Ms. Garg suggests replacing the Red Bud in front of the building.
- Budget for Next year (see Discussion above)
- **Developments**
 - Pohlig/Reeves property – assessment of plants on the property?
 - Ms. Hilyard asks Mr. Callahan about what mowing and tree removal was approved. Mr. Callahan explains that they hired a farmer for the fields and the tree fell near a power line.

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- Ms. Hilyard inquires as to whether there is a way to prevent invasives from spreading while the area is being transitioned into a park. Mr. Callahan states that they need a plan and it will be an ongoing process. A walkthrough is suggested. Mr. Cram notes that Pohlig had mowed the property and there is someone that does mowing and baling for free which helps keep the invasives down.
- Mr. Putkoski asks whether the area will become a park. Mr. Callahan describes the process of how to evaluate what to do with the property and that the master planning process has not even begun. The process includes tours and public feedback. Mr. Callahan notes that there is a pre-planning process to do an initial assessment. There will be discussion about it at the BOS workshop on 8/28.
- Ms. Garg talks about how Valley Park was part of her original development.
- Mr. Callahan notes that they got a \$500,000 grant for Sedgley.

● **New/Other Business**

- Upon Motion by Mr. Aquilina and seconded by Mr. ?? and Passed, the Environmental Advisory Council unanimously APPROVED for the agenda to be modified to address this item:
 - Mr. Cram talks about how the PennDOT contractor for Chester County began their clearing for construction yesterday. Mr. Cram notes that the clearing is removing several heritage trees as well as number smaller trees. Mr. Cram says they don't need to adhere to the township tree ordinance, but believes they would be open to it. There is discussion around replacing trees as well as the exceptional value water status.
 - Mr. Cram says they are doing the clearing now to avoid disturbing the Sharp-nosed Bat.
 - There is some discussion about the location and the various ordinances the county should be following. Mr. Cram believes they will follow the ordinances if they are presented with it. Mr. Cram spoke to Eric Quinn who is the county bridge engineer.
 - It is agreed to put this on the agenda for next time.
 - Ms. Garg asks to get clarification on the type of bat.
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- Next meeting Sep 23rd, 7 PM
- Adjourned at 9:02pm

Estimated Meeting Adjournment: 9PM