

EAC Minutes

Tuesday, September 23, 2025 @ 7:00 PM

- **Attendance:**

EAC:

Present: Ms. Gensemer, Ms. Garg, Mr. Aquilina, Mr. Meyers, Mr. Cram, Mr. Lott, Ms Lincoln, Ms Goudie.

Absent: Ms. Hilyard, Mr. Putkoski

BOS: Jonn Callahan

Admin:

Public: Karen Guererro, Tom Heisey

- Approval of last month's minutes
 - Upon Motion by Mr. Aquilina and seconded by Ms. Garg and Passed, the Environmental Advisory Council unanimously APPROVED the minutes from the JULY meeting.
 - Upon Motion by Ms. Aquilina and seconded by Ms. Gensemer and Passed, the Environmental Advisory Council unanimously APPROVED the minutes from the AUGUST meeting.
- **Announcements**
 - See Facebook [Schuylkill Township EAC | Facebook](#)
 - Ms. Gensemer will do a post for the tree giveaway.
 - There is some discussion about correspondence with Ms. Mitterer and using SignUpGenius.
 - Events and Webinars
 - EAC Fall Gathering – **November 15th**
 - Mr. Meyers provides an overview of the upcoming event:
 - Registration will be Early October
 - Location will be Penn State Great Valley in Malvern, PA.
 - It's described as a 1-day, in-person training & networking event for Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) members, municipal staff & elected officials.
 - They are seeking brief, 5-8 min. presentations for a Lightning Round session on the theme of "Easy Wins."
 - Grant Opportunities
- **Discussion**
 - (none)
- **Reports/Updates for Ongoing Projects**
 - Fall Tree Giveaway **CA Nov 1**
 - Date is November 1st
 - Mr. Aquilina says they will start advertising it.
 - Clean-up projects
 - Fall Cleanup at Pickering Preserve **September 27**
 - Mr. Cram says it's difficult to access the right of way.
 - Mr. Cram wants to just focus on mile-a-minute weed.
 - He suggests long sleeves and will bring 20 sets of leather gloves.
 - Mr. Aquilina asks whether Ms. Mitterer publicized the event.
 - Mr. Cram clarifies that it will start at 9am.
 - Mr. Callahan indicates that it's ok to leave bags of weeds for future pick up.
 - Township Building Renovation update
 - BOS Workshop Meeting **September 25**
 - Mr. Callahan notes that there is a workshop meeting this Thursday where Alloy5 will come out to provide an update.
 - He further states that it will be open to the public.
 - Sedgley Property
 - Public Tours: **Sept 27/Oct 18**
 - The meet up is at the township building.

EAC Minutes
Tuesday, September 23, 2025 @ 7:00 PM

- Mr. Heisey asks whether the EAC will be involved with the property.
- Mr. Callahan states that there will be all day bus tours of the property.

o Clean Energy- **JM**

- DEP Shared Energy Manager Program
 - Mr. Meyers reports that Wilson Engineering and the architectural firm Alloy5 have met and been in contact by email throughout September regarding building renovations.
- Sustainable Energy Partnership
- Energy procurement contract: review the Constellation rate options and prepare a recommendation for the Board of Supervisors.
 - Mr. Meyers reports that Racheal Griffith has a billing rate estimate for 2026 that she thinks is comparable with what Constellation provided. She will ask Liz Compitello at DVRPC if there's any other documentation that she thinks might be helpful.
 - There is some discussion as to whether a motion should be made to recommend the BOS consider the SEP.
 - Mr. Callahan suggests that the BOS may want to observe how other townships do with the SEP before our township makes a commitment.

o Parks/Preserves

- Redtail Update **JC**
 - Mr. Callahan provides an overview of the plan for the rest of the year. (document called Planned Work Activities for Schuylkill Township October 1, 2025 - December 31, 2025)
 - There is extended discussion about the items listed in the document.
 - Some items were modified based on discussion.
 - Meadow Mix from Mr. Cram will be dispersed.
 - Ms. Guerrero offers several suggestions for the Valley Park section. There is some discussion with Ms. Garg.
 - Mr. Aquilina suggests some (possibly 10) free trees can be used.
 - It is agreed to focus on 1, 5 and 6 and then 2, 3, and 4.
 - Ms. Garg will bring some honey locusts.
 - Ms. Garg suggested not worrying about the Viburnum. It is decided not to worry about the 2 items under "possible plans".
- Pickering Preserve
 - Funds available for Purple Martin Boxes through Bird Town/PA Game Commission
 - o Discussion about placement of Cavity nesting boxes at Pickering **KH**
 - o Mr. Aquilina says Ms. Hilyard will provide an overview next month.
 - o Mr. Cram states that the Little Free Library is running low on books.
 - Placement of Duck Boxes – Laurie requests township place concrete.
 - o Mr. Cram indicates that it would make sense for the township to place the concrete.
 - o Mr. Cram describes some of the beneficial plants that are growing in the preserve including asters, primroses, and appalachian blackberry plants.
 - Mr. Cram states that Martha Majewski had put the signs in Pickering but they are faded and may need replacing at some point.
 - Mr. Cram raises that he was going to reach out to Weeds Inc about treating swallow-wort. He reminds that the area near the sewer is township property.
- Valley Park
 - Educational signs **AL**
 - o Ms. Lincoln has no updates.
 - Planting Project **CA**
 - o Mr. Aquilina provides a brief update.

o Replacement trees at Creek Road **EC**

- Mr. Cram states that there are three landowners affected. Mr. Cram says some magnificent trees were removed and suggests that the township should convey the existence of the tree ordinance. He states that the PennDot contractor would likely respect the tree ordinance.

o Road Salt **JM**

- Mr. Meyers states that Glenn Wenger and Victoria Laubach circulated some emails to local EAC members about road salt, since they believe some townships are concerned with road salt impacting streams and water quality in general.

EAC Minutes
Tuesday, September 23, 2025 @ 7:00 PM

- Mr. Meyers states the email mentioned an organization called Pennsylvania Road Salt Action, a statewide working group dedicated to reducing the overuse of road salt by working with municipalities and local decision makers.
- Mr. Meyers further stated that a bill called HB 664 is currently pending in the Pennsylvania House Environmental & Natural Resource Protection committee. If passed, the bill would require PennDOT and the Department of Environmental Protection to help municipalities and other entities reduce salt pollution while maintaining public safety.
- Mr. Meyers stated that he could circulate the email to anyone interested in road salt issues and suggests the EAC keep tabs on the topic.
- Mr. Cram mentions that US Geological survey monitors creek water and that there is degradation of water from past road salt use. He suggests that anything that is done should involve US Geological survey.
- Mr. Cram further adds that some road salt had been polluted with fracking fluid.
- o Treasurer's Report **MP**
 - Mr. Putkoski is absent. Mr. Aquilina asks about the 2026 budget. Mr. Callahan believes there are no issues but it will be reviewed at the October BOS workshop meeting.
- **Developments**
 - o Convention Center at Valley Forge (1485 Valley Forge Rd)
 - Ms. Gensemer asks Mr. Callahan if there was a plan offered. He confirms a plan was submitted but states that it was a "sketch" plan and very preliminary. Mr. Cram asks about the girl scout center and it's clarified that this development is next to it.
 - Ms. Gensemer inquires about the plan going before the historical commission. Mr. Callahan states that the plan seeks to tear down everything. Ms. Gensemer asks about whether the plan would come before the EAC and Mr. Callahan confirms it likely would.
 - o Mr. Aquilina asks about trails. Mr. Callahan says a new trail is in the works and will have an update at the next meeting.
 - o Adjourned 7:58pm.
- **New/Other Business**
 - o Next meeting October 28th, 7 PM