

**EASTTOWN TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
MEETING MINUTES**

Thursday, March 24, 2022

The regular meeting was called to order at 7:06 pm by Chairperson Cara Rash. Environmental Advisory Councilmembers in attendance were Gary Ellis, Kate Goddard Doms, Heather Hill, Cara Rash, and Radha Pyati. Also attending were Supervisor Michael Wacey; and Eugene Briggs, Township Manager.

**Consideration of February 24, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes.**

The January minutes were approved with a motion and second and two friendly amendments by a 4-0 vote just prior to Councilmember Hill's arrival.

**Receive Southeastern PA Alliance of Green Enterprises (SAGE) Presentation.**

Councilmember Hill introduced Lizzy Goernemann of the Southeastern PA Alliance of Green Enterprises (SAGE), who gave a presentation on the organization. SAGE is a planned membership-based alliance of regional businesses who will participate in a point system in which the points are awarded for sustainable actions in several categories. SAGE was formed by members of the Upper Merion and Tredyffrin EACs and is awaiting finalization of its 501(c)(3) status as a nonprofit organization. They are seeking to build the group by identifying some founding companies; they are also building their board and committees. They are similar to the Sustainable Storefronts program in West Chester, but differences include a larger geographic region, inclusion of all types of businesses rather than just storefronts, and an emphasis on sustainable actions other than just reduction of plastic use. Ms. Goernemann will inform the EAC when the SAGE website is live, and the EAC may choose to promote it.

**Consideration of Tree Canopy Loss Next Steps.**

Having heard a presentation on tree canopy loss at the February 2022 meeting by Bill Hartman, a resident of the Village of Berwyn, the EAC considered a variety of approaches to participating in this effort, mindful of the greater impact on residents of the Village of Berwyn than on residents outside the Village. The EAC ultimately agreed upon supporting Mr. Hartman in his efforts, rather than leading the initiative as the EAC. Ideas included helping him to set up a panel or workshop on trees and folding the tree canopy discussion into the open space plan revision. Chairperson Rash will reach out to Mr. Hartman about possible speakers or panelists.

**Consideration of Watershed Partnership Agreement.**

Councilmember Doms presented an item on an invitation to Easttown Twp to participate in a regional watershed partnership agreement. Natural Lands Trust has received a grant to do a river conservation plan and watershed model, along with the following partners: the Water Center at the University of Pennsylvania, Drexel University's engineering program, and Hunter College in New York. This group reached out to Easttown Twp and other municipalities, requesting a representative who will attend meetings. The timeline is approximately 2 ½ years, and the group offers a \$150 payment to the participant. The EAC desired more information on whether participation places any obligations on the Twp, and whether the compensation goes to the Twp or the individual representative. The EAC passed a motion with a second and a 5-0 vote to nominate Councilmember Doms to serve on this group, pending confirmation that there are no obligations to Easttown Twp.

**Discussion on Articles for Easttown/Tredyffrin Environmental Advisory Council E-newsletter.**

The EAC discussed various articles for the next newsletter. Vice Chair Ellis's open space article draft is complete; Councilmember Pyati offered to convert the paragraph on population statistics into a graph and share it to the EAC for their consideration. Councilmember Pyati's article on pesticides is not complete. Councilmember Hill attended a talk on Dark Sky Week by Professor Marc Gagne of West Chester University; his article was offered for the newsletter. Tredyffrin EAC is working on pieces as well. Chairperson Rash will create a mockup of the next E-newsletter. The EAC noted the need for a repository of articles available for this purpose.

#### **Discussion on Articles for Easttown Township Newsletter.**

The new newsletter will be published by Franklin Maps and will have three issues per year. Councilmember Hill's recycling information will be placed in the next submission. Councilmember Pyati will follow up with Ms. Sharon Norris of the Twp to obtain the editorial calendar deadlines.

#### **Discussion of Recreation, Open Space, and Environmental Resources Plan Update Proposal.**

The Twp has received a draft proposal for the consulting work on the open space plan from Thomas Comitta Associates, the consultant who wrote the 1993 open space plan and the more recent landscape plan. The draft is available on the Twp website Document Center. After discussion, the Easttown EAC passed a motion with a second and a 5-0 vote that the open space consulting proposal include a section of the plan that describes how the three areas - recreational needs, open space concerns, and environmental regulations - will be integrated, and that the proposal include a session with the EAC.

#### **Liaison Report – Board of Supervisors.**

Chairperson Rash reported on the Board of Supervisors. The BOS passed a stormwater task force ordinance.

#### **Liaison Report – Planning Commission.**

Vice Chair Ellis reported on the Planning Commission. They are addressing a traffic safety issue near Beaumont Elementary School.

#### **Liaison Report – Parks and Recreation Board.**

Councilmember Hill reported on the Parks and Recreation Board. Various athletic equipment has been installed at local parks.

#### **Native Plant Workshop Update.**

Councilmember Hill provided an update. Twelve participants have registered for the Native Plant workshop. The presenter works at Chanticleer and will bring seeds.

#### **Darby Creek Spring Cleanup Update.**

Details of the Saturday April 23 event were confirmed. Councilmember Pyati will serve as the cleanup captain at Sussex Place. Chairperson Rash, Councilmember Hill, and Councilmember Doms will collect supplies for return to DCVA. Chairperson Rash shared several designs for the tote bag. The EAC passed a motion with a second and a 5-0 vote to support purchasing 150 tote bags with the Twp logo and the text "Sponsored by Easttown Environmental Advisory Council." The full group will meet at Hilltop Park, do a safety briefing, and go to sites; lunch will be provided afterward. The rain date is Saturday, April 30; the decision will be made by 6 am on April 23 whether to proceed or reschedule for the rain date; if the rain date is selected, participants will be informed by email.

#### **Compost Swap Program Update.**

Councilmember Hill gave an update. The Tredyffrin EAC is interested in participating with the Easttown EAC and Mother Compost and are finalizing approval among their group and with their BOS. Mother Compost will cover the cost of one shed; if two sheds are desired, that will be rolled into the cost.

**Single-use Plastic Bag Ordinance and Chester County Solid Waste Authority Grant.**

Chairperson Rash will send the economic impact information and survey data to the BOS for their consideration. Republic has been asked for a match or donation for the grant.

**Public Comment.**

There was no public comment.

**Announcements.**

The next regularly scheduled meeting is Thursday, April 28, 2022, at 7:00 pm.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:54 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Radha Pyati  
Secretary, Easttown EAC