

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

Thursday, April 22, 2021

The regular meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm by Cara Rash. Environmental Advisory Council members in attendance were Kathryn Goddard Doms, Gary Ellis, Heather Hill, Cara Rash, and Radha Pyati. Also attending were Michael Wacey, Supervisor Liaison; Eugene Briggs, AICP, CZO, Township Manager; Kristen McCann of TE Green Team; and Clara Steege.

**Consideration of March 25, 2021 regular meeting minutes.**

The March 25 minutes were approved 5-0 with a motion and second.

**Consider TREX recycling program recommendation to board of supervisors.**

Chairperson Rash described the TREX recycling program: the collection of plastics such as dry cleaning bags and grocery bags in local bins that are emptied 1-2 times per week by a volunteer; the material is converted into TREX decking. She has acquired the bins and knows a volunteer who is able to empty the bins and take the material to the collection site (Wegman's or another site). Ms. Kristen McCann provided more detail about its operation in Tredyffrin Twp and noted that there is an adequate pool of volunteers.

The council moved, seconded, and passed 5-0 the following recommendation to the Board of Supervisors: the Easttown Environmental Advisory Council recommends that the Twp adopt the TREX recycling plan, including situating the bins in the Easttown Library and the Township Administration building, subject to agreement of the particulars by the Director of the Library. Chairperson Rash will assemble a memo for the Supervisors.

**Discuss curbside composting.**

Councilmember Hill described the curbside composting programs available in Media Township and the Mother Compost program. The Media Twp program collects food compost and yard waste biweekly. It is handled by the company Kitchen Harvest but in July will switch to Public Works of Media Twp. It costs about \$20,000 per year, and grants from the PA Department of Environmental Protection are available. The Mother Compost program is a local organization that picks up food waste only biweekly.

The Council expressed interest in hosting a workshop on curbside composting, to educate residents and gauge interest.

**Discuss rainwater program and municipal separate storm sewer system.**

The Council discussed rain garden and rain barrel programs. Chairperson Rash and Councilmember Hill learned about the Tredyffrin EAC's plan as well as the pilot programs in Upper Darby and Haverford. The program requires training, volunteering to put in the next rain garden, and an obligation to maintain the rain garden for 20 years. Uwchlan has built a demonstration garden on town property.

The Council expressed interest in hosting a workshop and tour on rain gardens, potentially at Trinity Church, to educate residents and gauge interest. This workshop may count toward MS4 requirements. The Darby Creek Valley Association offers many workshops.

**Discuss Sustainable Storefronts.**

This initiative encourages local businesses to reduce plastic usage and has been successful in West Chester. The Berwyn Devon Business Association would be a good contact if the Council wishes to proceed. Councilmembers can post information about this on social media sites as individuals, if not speaking as members of the EAC.

**Discuss beekeeping initiative.**

Councilmember Ellis recommended that the Council defer consideration of this, because the Planning Commission will consider it this summer.

**Watershed article update**

Councilmember Doms has written an article for In Community magazine that has been submitted and queued for the summer edition. Each Councilmember will send a paragraph to her about their experience by Sunday, April 25, for a short article introducing the EAC for submission to In Community.

**Parks and Recreation Committee update.**

The meetings are open to the public. Councilmember Doms is our liaison.

**Pennsylvania Environmental Council Conference.**

Councilmember Ellis reported on items from the conference, including the Uwchlan Learning Trail and the Community Day idea in which community members volunteer for projects.

**Single-use plastics survey presentation.**

Kristen McCann presented results from a survey of Tredyffrin-Easttown residents regarding banning single use plastics. She described the resolution to reduce the use of these plastics that has been passed by the Tredyffrin Twp Board of Supervisors.

**Outreach efforts.**

The need for a volunteer list was discussed. A call for volunteers will be included in the In Community article introducing the Council; volunteers may contact Gene Briggs. Councilmember Pyati will organize ideas of possible writings or posts based upon the editorial calendar of In Community and the Twp's social media.

**Amendment to EAC Charter.**

Mr. Briggs informed the Council that the Board of Supervisors expressed concern about the phrase "upon its own initiative" in Article 2D of the Charter regarding the Council's reviewing, evaluating, and preparing reports on land matters. The ordinance enabling the Council does not accommodate that activity. A motion with a second to strike that language from the Charter passed 5-0.

**Final proposed list of goals and projects for 2021.**

The following list of goals and projects was moved, seconded, and passed 5-0, for presentation to the Easttown Twp Board of Supervisors.

The goals and projects of the Easttown Environmental Advisory Council for 2021 will be the items below.

Short-Term Goals

- 1) Promotion of the EAC through written publications, social media, and workshops. Workshop topics of interest include curbside composting, rain gardens/barrels, and others.
- 2) Establishment of a TREX plastic recycling program.
- 3) Organization of a stream or park cleanup.
- 4) Development of a Sustainable Storefronts program in cooperation with local businesses.
- 5) Development of a plan for reduction of single-use plastics, including a potential proposal to the Board of Supervisor for a resolution supporting this reduction.
  
- 6) Medium-Term Goal. Update of 1993 Recreation, Open Space and Environmental Resources Plan, beginning with a review in 2021 and continuing in 2022.

**Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**Announcement**

The next regularly scheduled meeting is Thursday, May 27, 2021, at 7:00 pm

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Radha Pyati  
Secretary, Easttown EAC