

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

Thursday, April 28, 2022

A regular meeting of the Easttown Township Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) was called to order at 7:02 pm by Chairperson Cara Rash on Thursday April 28, 2022. Environmental Advisory Councilmembers in attendance were Gary Ellis, Kate Doms, Heather Hill, and Cara Rash. Councilmember Radha Pyati was excused. Also attending were Supervisor Michael Wacey; and Eugene Briggs, Township Manager.

Consideration of March 24 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes.

Councilmembers Ellis noted some needed corrections in his article. In addition, "Light" should be "live" in the last paragraph of the minutes of March 24th. The March minutes were approved with a motion and second and two friendly amendments as above by a 4-0 vote.

Consideration of Tree Canopy Loss Next Steps.

Councilmember Rash moved, and Councilmember Hill seconded a motion to move the tree canopy issue forward in the agenda to allow Mr. Bill Hartman to leave after discussing this issue if he wished. The motion passed, 4-0 vote.

Mr. Hartman thanked the EAC for their consideration. He is open to leading or participating in an activity to garner interest in preserving and growing trees in Easttown. A discussion ensued concerning how to educate Easttown residents, particularly in the village of Berwyn, about the reasons to preserve trees. It was generally agreed that an August 25th tour of trees in the village will be arranged. Mr. Hartman will recruit some village residents to let other residents know about the event and encourage them to come. The tour will start and end at the Easttown Library. Refreshments may be served at the end of the tour, which is likely to be in the evening.

The EAC can support this event by facilitating advertising and committing that some EAC councilmembers will try to attend. EAC chairperson Rash will share the EAC volunteer list with Mr. Hartman. Mr. Hartman would eventually like to have a big tree planting event, he would like to plant about 10 this year. Purchasing trees to give away to residents was discussed.

Mr. Hartman will present a final plan to the EAC to be approved by the Board of Supervisors in July, 2022. Supervisor Wacey suggested that the township set a goal of planting 25 trees a year in the township. Councilmember Doms pointed out that the township can apply for a Tree Vitalize grant for trees. The program could be similar to what was done with PECO tree giveaway- residents can have a tree if they attend a workshop to learn how and where to plant, and how to take care of the particular species of tree.

EAC Member to Recreation, Open Space, and Natural Resources Plan Task Force

EAC chairperson Rash reported that the Board of Supervisors has agreed that the EAC as a group will have one meeting with Tom Comitta and staff. The Easttown Planning Commission and the Parks and Recreation Committee will have similar single meetings with Mr. Comitta and staff.

It was moved by EAC chairperson Rash, seconded, and unanimously agreed that Councilperson Ellis will be the EAC representative to the Recreation, Open Space, and Natural Resources Plan Task Force.

Councilmember Ellis asked how it can be assured that the plan is used. Township Manager Briggs replied that (1) recommendations in the plan must be in the budget (2) township boards, committees, and commissions must return to the plan frequently, (3) recommendations must be specific and practical within 5 to 10 years. Councilmember Ellis pointed out that the plan might suggest a small number of targeted open space opportunities rather than a large number of possibilities.

Conservation Corridor Initiative. – Tabled

EAC Newsletter.

Councilmember Ellis will edit his article. There is no article from Tredyffrin Township this month.

Discussion of Grant Writing Responsibilities.

Township Manager Briggs asks that each board, commission, and council keep their own list of granting agencies, and make long term plans for writing grants to fund projects in the township.

Committee Reports

Liaison Report – Board of Supervisors

EAC chairperson Rash reported that the Board of Supervisors the discussed Recreation, Open Space, and Natural Resources Plan at their April 18, 2022 meeting. The Easttown Township Stormwater Task Force has a complete membership of volunteer task force members. EAC chairperson Rash further reported that three residents are needed for Open Space plan. Councilperson Ellis suggests Bill Hartman, maybe the Easttown volunteer list. Councilperson Doms suggested Jim Hatfield, a retired civil engineer, and Vera Neumann- Sachs, an engineer who once sat in on an EAC meeting.

Liaison Report -Planning Commission

Councilmember Ellis expressed concern over the application for a property on Blackburn Road for building into the riparian buffer. Township Manager Briggs explained that this is a conditional use application which allows temporary encroachment into riparian buffer to reach facilities (in this case sewer main) and that the application is currently before the Board of Supervisors.

Councilmember Doms, who attended the Planning Commission meeting on April 5, 2022 reported briefly on other discussions at the meeting.

Liaison Report Parks and Recreation Committee

Councilmember Hill reported that the Parks and Recreation Committee has installed a new net and added new sand to the volleyball court. The chair of the Board of Supervisors, Beth D'Antonio visited the April 19, 2022 meeting and spoke about the Recreation, Open Space and Natural Resources Plan. The Parks and Recreation Committee is prepared for the July 4th celebration and concerts in July, Aug, and September. They are considering forming a foundation to fund township events. They have facilitated the installation of benches at Hilltop Park. They have had requests from residents for pickle ball courts.

Consideration of Watershed Partnership Agreement

Councilmember Doms was unable to attend the first meeting as it occurred during her class time. Councilmembers Hill and Rash will substitute for future meetings if Councilmember Doms cannot attend. The organizers provided the following meeting summary (paraphrased):

On April 19th, 2022 the first Collaborative Team Meeting with the Watershed Partners Team (WPT) occurred. The WPT consists of 37 stakeholders throughout the watershed committed to coming together and exploring how upstream land use and cover, floodplain restoration, and nature-based stormwater management techniques impact flood risk downstream. Goals were decided upon:

- Incorporate an adequate community outreach and engagement approach that incorporates:
 - Watershed education
 - Demonstrating the impacts of upstream activities, downstream, and communicate that to everyone in the Darby-Cobbs watershed
- Facilitate sustainable connections between individuals and organizations at different levels within the watershed
- Start with a directory/contact list for everyone in the Watershed Partners Team

Receive Southeastern PA Alliance of Green Enterprises (SAGE) Presentation- No update

Compost Program

Councilmember Hill reported Tredyffrin Township is hoping new trash hauler will offer composting, and therefore is not interested in the curbside composting program at this time. Trinity Presbyterian Church will send interested members to wherever a program is set up in Easttown.

Councilmember Hill will be at the Upper Main Line YMCA Migratory Bird Day on May 14 to speak to residents about composting and the work of the EAC.

It was moved by EAC chairperson Rash, seconded by Councilmember Hill, and unanimously agreed to discuss the Easttown EAC logo. The vote was 4-0

Logo

All expressed gratitude to the graphic designer. As Supervisor Wacey suggested that consistency among Easttown Township logos is desirable, the discussion turned to included elements of the Easttown Township seal in the EAC logo. It was decided that the lettering will be one color to save printing costs. The color to be used is green, but darker color for lettering, light green for plants. It was further agreed that decided that Easttown Township must be written larger, and that when two colors can be used that the outer gold ring and or the rope border of the township seal may be used. Councilmember Hill will return to the next meeting with the requested changes.

Boy Scouts

Councilmember Doms moved, Councilmember Ellis seconded, and it was unanimously agreed to discuss a Boy Scout troop offer of volunteer work. The vote was 4-0.

A local scout leader offered that Eagle Scout applicants might do projects for the township for their Eagle Scout project. It was generally agreed that Township Manager Briggs will ask Don Curley if the scouts could participate in the stormwater outfall inspections by publicizing and participating in stormwater outfall inspections under Mr. Curley's direction.

Public Comment

Native Plant workshop

Councilmember Hill reported that the native plant workshop went well. It was well attended. Free seeds were given out by the speaker. The audiovisual equipment worked well.

Paoli Shopping Center

Councilmember Hill mentioned that a new shop in Paoli Shopping Center offered volunteers and she also met a woman who organizes street cleanups. She asked that the EAC keep these volunteers in mind.

Bag ban

Township Manager Briggs reported that the bag ban is being considered by the solicitor. A statewide ban on bans expected to past in November. The review is expected to be completed before November.

The next meeting is Thursday May 26 at 7 PM.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Kate Doms
Members, Easttown EAC