

*Lower Gwynedd Township*

**Environmental Advisory Council  
Meeting Minutes  
April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**Members in Attendance:**

Lisa Brown, Co-Chair

Marianne Grey

Mark Schafer, Co-Chair

Brenda Doll

Rea Monaghan (via Zoom)

Steve Saffier

Maureen Nunn

**Associate Members:** Rich Valiga

**Board of Supervisors Liaison:** Tessie McNeely & Mike Twersky

**Staff In Attendance:** Sandi Feight

**Not in Attendance:** Suzanne Smith-Oscilowski

**Guest:** Paige Menton

1. **Call to order.** The meeting was called to order at 7 pm.
2. **Minutes.** Minutes accepted as amended.
3. **Request to move items from Consent Agenda to Regular agenda, and any other items to be considered as part of the Regular Agenda – plaque ceremony**
4. **Approval of Regular Agenda.** Agenda approved
5. **Consent Agenda.** Plaque ceremony
6. **Standing items**
  - a. Planning Commission Update- Maureen stated they will be discussing ordinances related to signs in the upcoming meeting. The liaisons between the EAC and Planning Commission have discussed the proposal for applying tree waiver fees toward certain environmental projects. The Planning Commission has not approved or made a recommendation about the proposal. EAC understands that the Board of Supervisors has the final decision. (See Old Business, below.)
  - b. Parks & Recreation Board Update ~ the Board is working on the Master plans for several parks. A group made a presentation on installing a mountain bike trail in the woods within Penllyn Woods. The Board is going through the investigation process to discuss further for recommendations.

## 7. Old Business -

- a. Staff Liaison report (Sandi) –The cost of the battery recycling has gone up to \$115.95 (was \$109). The Township had received the plaque for Tree City.
- b. Recent activities- Storm Drain project was well received and successful. Battery Recycling & Techno Trash has gone well.
- c. Final review of Tree Waiver proposal – Lisa gave a detailed background history of the waiver proposal. There was a reminder that the proposal has not been presented to the Planning Commission and there will need to be input from township solicitor. The BOS have the final decision on the proposal. Tessie asked the EAC to start thinking of a “wish list” of longer-range environmental restoration projects and possibly form a subcommittee for long term multiple year projects between now and the next meeting.
- d. Calendar –
  - a. Ambler Earth Fest 4/29. Brenda will do a sign-up sheet with 2-hour blocks of volunteering.
  - b. Rain Garden clean up tentatively scheduled at Ingersoll House for 5/6 has been put on hold. Rea is waiting for Public Works for an update.
  - c. The composting workshop scheduled for 5/20 has been pushed back to June. The committee would like to present an overview and have various education stations as well as giveaways of compost bins.
  - d. The Community Choice Aggregation presentation. At a prior meeting, this was proposed for the June or other summer meeting, but some further information is needed before the EAC invites someone to speak. It was recommended that the members of the group individually view the video presentation; Lisa will send out the link.
  - e. Green Award. The sub-committee is ready to move the project to the Board of Supervisors for their approval. The EAC approved the Green Award and asked that Maureen assemble the information for the Board of Supervisors.

Bird walks have been going well. Steve has been working with Sandi to put together a screening of “Winged Migration.”

- f. Fall Tree giveaway is scheduled for 10/14.
- e. Volunteer needs: Sandi is working on a volunteer manual.
- f. Trail maintenance – Parks and Rec maintain the trails. There is a P&R trail clean up on 4/22 that volunteers could also help with. Lisa will reach out to the volunteers who would have helped with the ramp clean up and ask them if they would like to help clean up
- g. Opportunities with Journeywork – Paige Menton joined the meeting and she is the owner of Journeywork. The purpose of Journeywork is to help make it as easy as possible for people to replace their lawns with more native plantings. The EAC has asked Paige to make specific suggestions on how they can work together; Paige has volunteered to be part of a long-term planning committee.

**8. New Business**

- a. No Mow Meadow – Rea prepared an overview and proposal for this project. There was unanimous consent to move forward with the proposal. Waiting to hear back from Public Works on their thoughts.
- b. WHS Environmental Club request – Wissahickon High School’s Environmental Club has asked the EAC via email for a donation to support their Electronics Recycling Drive for the community. This drive will be held on 5/13 from 9 am – 1 pm. The club is short \$600 from their fundraising goal to be able to afford the cost of collaboration with a local electronics disposal company. The committee voted unanimously to donate \$600. Will propose to the BOS.
- c. E-Newsletter, Green Tip. It was suggested that we add photos of native plants vs non-native plants and what you should plant.

**9. Points of interest/general comments**

**Meeting concluded @ 8:37 pm**  
**Next meeting: Wednesday, May 10<sup>th</sup>**