

Lower Gwynedd Township

Environmental Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

November 13th, 2024

Meeting was all Zoom

Members in Attendance:

Mark Schafer, Chair	Brenda Doll
Rea Monaghan, Vice Chair	Lisa Brown
Maureen Nunn	Marianne Grey

Associate Members: Rich Valiga, Suzanne Smith

Board Of Supervisors Liaison: Tessie McNeely

Staff in Attendance: Sandi Feight

1. **Call to Order, attendance, introductions of new members, participants, or visitors** - Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM & Melinda Wolff was welcomed as a guest.
2. **Request to move items from Consent Agenda to Regular Agenda, and any other items to be considered as part of the Regular Agenda**
 - a. Lisa asked to discuss the EAC paying to be a member of We Conserve PA
3. **Approval of Regular Agenda** – approved.
4. **Approval of October 9th, 2024, Meeting Minutes** – approved as presented.
5. **New Business-**
 - a. Republic Services Recycling Plant Tour Update – Members, Tessie & Lisa attended with Melinda Wolff, Ed Grear & Whitpain EAC member, Erin Crump. Melinda Wolff gave a presentation on the tour at Republic Recycling Center. The tour was conducted by Charles Noble, the Head of Operations. It was noted that workers hand sort and pull out whatever should not be in there. Full plastic bags are not opened, they are tossed in with regular trash. The recycling center did notice with the increase of municipalities placing a ban on single use plastic bags, there has been a decrease of plastic bags coming through. The attendees did learn the recycling center will take plastics numbered 1 through 7 and there is a market for it. Plastics are sorted and bailed by number and sold to mills. The mills clean and shred it and ship it off to recyclers. Beginning next year Republic will have a new Polymer Center which will break down the material and sell directly to manufacturers, which will eliminate the mills. There was a discussion regarding recycling plastic bottles, you should empty the bottles before putting them in the recycling containers, avoid crushing the bottles and keep the lids on

the bottle or throw the caps in the trash, not recycles. Suggestions for aluminum and tin recycling were, empty bottles and cans of any liquid or food, do not flatten the bottles or cans and to keep the lids on the containers. A few items that are not allowed with aluminum and tin are pie plates and aluminum foil. Suggestions for paper recycling are to open all junk mail and separate the paper contents from non-paper items which includes address labels, medallions and magnets and throw that stuff in the trash. No shredded paper at all. Suggestions for cardboard recycling are to breakdown and flatten and to remove any packing tape before putting into the recycling container. As far as your recycling bins are concerned, make sure the lid is closed to keep the contents dry and help maintain the quality of the recyclables. Pizza boxes should not be recycled because of the grease and food. Styrofoam cannot be recycled either, but polystyrene can. It was suggested that the Township educate residents best by putting out the best recycling practices.

6. Old Business

- a. Program Planning Guide – All the members have contributed to the guide and feel it should be ready to go as a guide for the EAC. Mark asked everyone to just review their section one more time and thanked Rea for putting it all together.
- b. Going Green Award Selection – Interviews were conducted this month. There were specific ground rules for the interview to be followed by the committee, and Maureen thanked everyone for adhering to them and being prepared. The selection criteria were the advantages and disadvantages of sustainable activity, considering the value to the township and to the EAC. Foulkeways at Gwynedd was nominated, the committee combined everything together which included energy, water, land, waste minimization and community outreach. Journeyworks has consultations and workshops to help homeowners, neighborhoods, groups, schools, municipalities, and congregations to plan native plant installations, they give presentations to talk with Township EAC's, plan installations of native plants and host Not-a-Lawn parties where they discuss about alternatives to lawns in your yard. The members discussed the award and the idea of having 2 categories and decided to keep it as 1st place honorable mention. There will be one more meeting for the committee and the award will be given in January at a BOS meeting. Sandi will get the plaques ordered. Mark thanked Maureen for all her time and effort with this award.
- c. RF100 Criteria Update – The April 2025 meeting will be dedicated to the RF100 workshop. Rea did some research and attached to this packet about entities that should be a part of it and steps that should be a part of the planning process. She prepared a draft list of potential stake holders including township

staff and sample plans from another township so everyone can read and be ready for RF100.

- d. Single Use Plastics Update – The February 2025 meeting will be dedicated to the Single Use Plastics workshop. Rea provided an overview of 2 different scenarios – sending a survey out to the business owners here in the township after approval by the BOS or engaging the business owners in the township with a list of questions. Everyone was asked to gather a list of questions or concerns they had.
- e. WHS Natatorium Garden Update – All plants have been planted, there are volunteers to water it and Brenda is working with Sandi on a sign for it.

7. Standing Items – Committee and Liaison updates

- a. Parks & Recreation Department & Staff Liaison – Park & Rec board has been tasked with the planning of the former Texaco property. Gilmore has been working on the Woodland Evaluation, and they have not received anything from that yet.
- b. Planning Commission Liaison – Looked at the Gwynedd Estates job again because there was a change in the some of the storm water management. They also reviewed an amendment to the zoning for 321-323 Norristown Road where they are trying to put in a smaller version of a Promenade which would require a zoning change so they looked at the wording and will meet again on this, but they told them what info they needed. Work Force Housing will be part of this Promenade but also retail stores with apartments above and with parking in the middle.
- c. LGT Comprehensive Plan Liaison – Open House was held on 10/28 planners for Montgomery County were there with staff. There were boards with presentations of the draft plan with pictures and stations where residents could ask questions and take notes. There will be additional draft recommendations worked into the plan moving forward. There has not been a meeting since the Open House, but they will meet in January, a date has not been set yet. On 12/10 a presentation will be given to the BOS regarding the status of the Comp Plan rewrite and comments made at the Open House. There is a link on the townships website for anyone who wants to offer their questions or concerns.

8. Points of Interest/General comments/Any other Business –

- a. Lisa asked if the EAC could join We Conserve as a group. There was a discussion regarding the cost. Lisa was tasked with finding out the actual cost and what defines “1% of average annual conservation and/or environmental operational expenditures.”

- b. Tessie informed the EAC about the new Public Works building and its progress & thinks it is important for the EAC to make a recommendation to the BOS for green principles for the new building if RF100 is in place. It was also recommended for one member to speak with Mimi to bring the EAC's concerns or advice to the process of the building of the new Public Works building.

Meeting concluded: 8:40 PM

Next Meeting: The EAC will not be meeting in December.