

Lower Gwynedd Township

Environmental Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

February 12th, 2025

Members in Attendance:

Mark Schafer, Chair (Zoom)

Rea Monaghan, Vice Chair

Maureen Nunn

Brenda Doll (via Zoom)

Lisa Brown

Marianne Grey (Zoom)

Associate Members: Suzanne Smith

Staff in Attendance: Sandi Feight

1. **Call to Order:** Mark called the meeting to order 7:00 p.m.

There was a slight delay in the meeting, zoom had to be restarted for attendees online to hear. The matter was resolved.

2. **Approval of prior meeting minutes:** The meeting minutes were approved as presented.

3. **Old Business-**

- a. The Going Green Award was presented at the January 28 Board of Supervisors Meeting – Mark thanked Maureen and the subcommittee for the Going Green Award. The program has been a great success. Maureen asked for a brief bio from the EAC members, she feels there needs to be some documentation for the quantifications of the EAC members.

4. **Single Use Plastics Planning Discussion**

The EAC had a very in-depth and thorough conversation regarding their plan to move forward with a community conversation with residents and businesses to discuss Single Use Plastics.

The goal is to have a setup like the community conversations the Township has conducted with success.

Table 1: Environmental Impact of Plastic Bags

Station Lead: Penn Environment, Sierra Club, Beyond Plastics

Questions that station leads should be able to answer from residents and businesses.

- How do plastic bags affect our local environment and wildlife?
- What are the long-term consequences of plastic waste?
- How can we balance environmental responsibility with economic concerns?

Table 2: Policy & Regulations

Station Lead: Representatives from neighboring municipalities or EAC's.

- What policies have been implemented in other municipalities, what has or hasn't worked?
- Discuss potential policies and sustainable practices for plastic waste reduction?
- How have other municipalities enforced bans?

Table 3: Business Perspectives & Alternatives

Station Lead: Chamber of Commerce (representing a wide variety of businesses), LGBA

- How would a ban or fee on plastic bags impact small businesses?
- What businesses have done to become more environmentally friendly
- What are the costs and benefits of switching to sustainable alternatives?
- How can businesses transition to eco-friendly solutions affordably?

Table 4: Community Education

Station Lead: EAC Members

- How can we encourage reusable bag use?
- What alternatives (paper bags, reusable bags, compostable bags) are available?
- What incentives or educational campaigns could help?
- What barriers prevent residents from using reusable bags?
- How can we encourage a culture of sustainability?
- Encourage community-driven solutions for a greener future

Table 5: Tally Table

Station Lead: EAC Members / Staff

- What key takeaway from this evening?
- What items should be taken into consideration: Plastic Bags, Styrofoam, straws, etc
- Create a chart with different levels of support for a plastic bag ban; no change, encourage people to use reusables, plastic bags, straws and plastic utensils.
- Encourage community-driven solutions for a greener future

5. Points of Interest/General comments

a. Other meetings of interest

- i. Shady Grove Elementary School Night March 27, 6-8, Lisa said she would volunteer to attend the event. She asked about age-appropriate topics, and Suzanne volunteered to help.
- ii. Upper Dublin EPAB Environmental Open House March 8, 9:30-12, Mark received a save the date for the Upper Dublin event.

Meeting concluded: 8:27 PM **Next Meeting:** March 12th, 2025, Regular Meeting