

**Lower Gwynedd Township
Environmental Advisory Council Agenda
February 11, 2026, 7:00 PM
Township Building Conference Room**

Zoom Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86287104643?pwd=Xz4Zbf2L2aUaOdptr7R3S6FRnbqazQ.1>

1. Election of Chair
2. Election of Vice Chair
3. Introductions
4. Approval of November 12, 2025 meeting minutes
5. Discussion: 2026 EAC Work Plan – requested projects from BOS
6. Liaison Reports
 - a. Board of Supervisors
 - b. Planning Commission
 - c. Parks & Recreation
7. Points of interest/General comments

Next EAC Monthly Meeting: March 11, 2026, 7:00 p.m.

UPCOMING TOWNSHIP PUBLIC EVENTS

- **Development Town Hall:** Thursday, Feb 19, 7 pm, Gwynedd Mercy University (University Hall)
- **Techno Trash Collection:** To be scheduled

Lower Gwynedd Township EAC Meeting Minutes

November 12, 2025, 7:00 PM

Township Building Conference Room

Members in Attendance:

Mark Schafer, Chair	Robert Sawyer
Rea Monaghan, Vice Chair	Brenda Doll
Maureen Nunn	Marianne Grey

Associate Members: Suzanne Smith-Oscilowski (Zoom), Rich Valiga, Lisa Brown

Board of Supervisor Liaison: Tessie McNeely

Staff in Attendance: John Farrell, Project Manager & Emergency Management Coordinator

1. Call to order: Mr. Schafer called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. He welcomed Lisa Mandell, as a resident of the township who would like to discuss leaf blowers.
2. Approval of October 8th, 2025, meeting minutes- Corrections to the minutes are discussed, with Ms. Brown noting the need for clarifications. Ms. Nunn suggests capitalizing the Going Green Award in the minutes. Mr. Schafer confirms the minutes are corrected and moves onto the Consent Agenda
3. Request to move items from Consent Agenda to Regular Agenda – approved.
4. Approval of Regular Agenda – Mr. Schafer approved the agenda as presented
5. New Business
 - a. Lisa Brown requested to add the issue of leaf blowers to the agenda, and it was added under item 11 Points of interest/General comments.
 - b. There was also an addition to discuss the new contract with Republic for trash and recycling services.
 - c. Mark Schafer mentions the solar-powered phone chargers missing from Ingersoll Park. It was confirmed that they will be returned to the park upon completion of the construction of a new building for concessions/press box.
6. Old Business
 - a. Journeywork Pollinator Garden Donation – Ms. McNeeley confirms the check was sent.
 - b. Going Green Awards Update – Ms. Nunn asked if the plaques for the Going Green Award were ordered. Mr. Farrell mentions he is standing in the position temporarily and will double-check details. The awards will be presented at the Board of Supervisors meeting on January 27th, 2026.
7. Committee Updates

- a. Bird Town – Ms. Doll mentioned a bird walk next week and the need for more public involvement in the committee.
- 8. Single Use Plastic Waste – Ms. Brown observed a change in plastic bag usage at Giant, noting a return to heavier plastic bags. Ms. McNeeley shared an anecdote about a Giant employee asking if she has her own bags. Ms. McNeeley planned to talk to Mr. Farrell about staff's role in outreach to local businesses.
- 9. RF100 Update – Ms. McNeeley highlighted the economic and environmental benefits of solar panels and the federal government's credits for renewable energy, and how that could be incorporated into the new public works building. Ms. Brown emphasized the importance of promoting energy efficiency in new buildings and developments, and a discussion ensued about materials that could be provided to developers or the Planning Commission regarding green building practices. Mr. Farrell provided an update on the status of the construction of the public works building, which will start the design phase in 2026.
- 10. Liaison Reports
 - a. Board of Supervisors – Ms. McNeeley stated that she was unsure about the status of filling appointments for vacant commission seats.
 - b. Planning Commission – Ms. Nunn provided an update on work being done by Lower Gwynedd Little League at Ingersoll Park, and an application for a storage facility and apartments at Ambler Yards.
 - c. Parks & Recreation – no report
- 11. Points of Interest/General Comments
 - a. Ms. Mandell discussed the issue of gas-powered leaf blowers citing air pollution, noise and health impacts. Mr. Schafer & Mr. Farrell discussed the township's authority to regulate leaf blowers, and how it may impact local businesses. Ms. McNeeley mentioned the idea of discussing the issue with the township's Director of Public Works, Fred Zollers, and suggests starting with a recommendation to ban gas-powered leaf blowers on township property. Ms. Nunn shared her experience with an electric leaf blower and the challenge of raking large amounts of leaves. Ms. Brown proposed educating the public about the benefits of electric equipment through the township's newsletter. The committee agreed to have Mr. Farrell check in with Mr. Zollers to estimate additional expenses that the Township would incur if it insisted on only electric leaf blowers being used by its contractors.
 - b. The group discussed the need for electric charging facilities for township equipment. Ms. Neeley suggested eliminating mowing on certain township properties to reduce maintenance costs.

- c. Mr. Schafer recognized Ms. Burns' efforts to help feed the people in need through her restaurant. The meeting is adjourned with plans to follow up with the gas-powered leaf blower issue.

Meeting adjourned at 8:21 pm

Next Monthly Meeting: January 14, 2025

In the Lower Gwynedd Township Code, the EAC has the responsibilities assigned by the Code or as may be assigned by the Board of Supervisors. The [EAC's functional responsibilities in the Code](#) primarily include promotion and conservation of natural resources and promoting community environmental programs with particular emphasis on reducing carbon emissions and nonrecycled waste. To support and guide continued implementation of EAC's long-range plan, the Board of Supervisors offers the following as tasks from that plan for the EAC to focus on in 2026.

- Continue to hold the annual Native Tree Giveaway to educate residents about the benefits of native species, and to contribute to the Township's tree canopy.
- Continue to hold/promote recycling drives to collect batteries (if this becomes an option again) and techno trash, holiday tree lights, electronics, and other items that should not be placed in residential recycling containers.
- Continue to recognize exemplary sustainability initiatives with the Going Green Award.
- Develop Earth Day programming in coordination with the Parks & Recreation Board.
- Follow up on the EAC commitment to talk to local management at Giant, Wawa, and CVS about whether they have considered reducing their use of plastic bags and what options they may be open to implementing
- Conduct rain barrel and composting bin giveaways in alternating years.
- Inform residents of the availability of green energy options such as PECO incentives, any available Inflation Reduction Act rebates, and other programs that may benefit residents or local businesses.
- Conduct educational events to inform the public about ways to reduce waste and recycle responsibly.
- Support bird walks or bird-related events throughout the year in keeping with Lower Gwynedd's status as a Bird Town.
- Work with Public Works staff to investigate and recommend methods for maintaining Township-owned land in a manner that restores native flora and fauna and reduces the carbon footprint of land management, while evaluating impact, cost, and ease of maintenance over time. Examples include no-mow areas; use of battery-operated equipment; or, in conjunction with the Parks & Recreation Board, volunteer events removing invasive species and/or adding native plants in Township parks, trails, or open space.