

**EAC MEETING MINUTES**

November 1, 2023

6:00 pm

1. Call to Order

The November 1, 2023 meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm with the following individuals in attendance.

Jon West	Chair
Scott McCartney	Vice Chair
Joanne Walker	Secretary
Sherry Chen	Member
Mark Smith	Member
Tom Alvarez	Associate Member
Megan Weaver	Assistant Township Manager
Deanna Logan	Administrative Assistant

Commissioners Denise Hull and Martha Simelaro were absent.

Present from the public, Dennis Wendt, Peter Habib, and William Jackson

2. Minutes of September 6, 2023

Upon motion of Ms. Walker, seconded by Mr. Smith, the meeting minutes of September 6, 2023 were approved unanimously.

3. Old Business

a. Initiatives

i. Environmental Education/Outreach

- Zero Waste Workshop – 11/16 at 6:30 pm
 - a. Ms. Chen to create a flyer or brochure
 - b. Mr. West will attend
 - c. No registration required

Mr. West is unable to attend so Ms. Chen will attend. Ms. Weaver will advertise the event on social media.

ii. Natural Resources and Open Space

- Haines Run Streambank Improvement Project
 - a. Comment Letter to Township Engineer

Mr. Smith said the engineering team has reduced the number of trees being taken down to about 40 and will have an arborist on board to supervise the tree removal process. They will keep some of the stumps of the ash trees for habitat housing and will use some of the clean soil to reinforce the berm. At an earlier meeting, Mr. Smith was told by the engineering team that they will build an improved crossing at Haines Run. He said we should reiterate that with the engineer.

iii. Regional Plastic Waste Reduction Initiative

- Information Session recap and next steps

It was an informative session that got residents talking about the impact of plastic pollution. Mr. West gave the background information surrounding the interest in plastic waste reduction in the area. The presentation detailed the legislative efforts to reduce plastic pollution in municipalities. Mr. Habib asked if there has been any legal ramifications in municipalities that have enforced a plastic bag ban to which Mr. West replied he isn't aware of any lawsuits. Ms. Walker asked if the minimum fee for a paper bag can be waived if a grocery store didn't want to charge for the bags. Penn Environmental suggests that municipalities ban plastic bags and charge a \$0.15 fee to purchase paper bags, ban polystyrene foam containers and provide plastic utensils and straws only by request.

Mr. Habib asked if the EAC has contacted area businesses to get their thoughts. The EAC replied, they visited all establishments to get feedback but only one replied to the survey and some don't use plastic bags. Mr. Habib suggested instead of an passing an ordinance, encouraging businesses to reduce plastic waste on a voluntary basis and get something from the EAC that verifies that are an environmental friendly organization.

Mr. West asked if the committee should come up with a concept plan approach to plastic reduction. Ms. Weaver said this should be presented to the commissioners prior to implementation.

The link to the presentation is on the UGT website.

4. Land Development

825 Morris, 212 Church Rd. and Wawa at Valley Forge Rd. were recommended for approval by the Planning Commission and all will be on the BOC agenda for consideration in November except for 825 Morris.

5. New Business

- a. Newsletter article due November 7

Ms. Walker will submit an article.

- b. Climate Action Plan: goals / resolution

No update. Ms. Chen expressed concern about making an action plan which is very comprehensive. Ms. Walker suggested making an outline of recommendations and an overview of a climate action plan. Ms. Weaver will provide information on cooperative purchasing.

- c. S. Broad Street Bike Lane Advisory Committee

Mr. Jackson said he is an organizer of Bike North Penn which encourages biking for transportation and leisure. He said they have been working on the S. Broad Street Bike Lane for the past year to encourage them to put a bike lane in on roads municipalities are going to resurface soon. He said Upper Gwynedd wants to add bike lanes in 2024 and has done some of the engineering work. The county will follow in 2025. Lansdale Borough has not yet made a commitment to bike lanes. Engineering costs for the bike lanes are relatively expensive. Ms. Weaver will get the correct numbers.

Mr. West said the EAC has been invited to join the Bike Lane Advisory Committee Meeting via Zoom on Wednesday, November 15th at 6:30 pm. Mr. Alvarez or Mr. McCartney may attend the meeting.

6. Assistant Township Manager's Report

Ms. Weaver said the work at the superfund site at 203/205 Church Road will begin next week. They are estimating 140 trucks removing and replacing soil will be traveling on township roads. Some utility relocation will also occur.

7. Upcoming Workshops and Events:

Mr. West suggested a member of the EAC attend the Park Comprehensive Plan Meeting. The first meeting will be on November 29th at 6:30 pm. There are 4 meetings for public engagement.

*Add Park Comprehensive Plan as an agenda item

Mr. Alvarez is planning to reserve the trees/plants for the giveaway on Arbor Day 2024 soon. He is looking into adding wildflowers as part of the giveaway. The committee agreed that addition is a great idea.

8. Adjournment

Upon motion by Mr. McCartney and seconded by Ms. Walker, Mr. West adjourned the meeting at 7:30 pm.

Next Meeting Wednesday, December 6, 2023 @ 6 pm