

# UPPER GWYNEDD TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

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## EAC MEETING MINUTES

December 7, 2020

### 1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Jon West at 5:34 pm. The following were in attendance.

Jon West	Chairman
Erica Antoine	Member
Heidi Lucas	Member
Joanne Walker	Member
Scott McCartney	Member
Tom Alvarez	Merck Representative
Sandra Zadell	Township Manager
Denise Hull	Commissioner
Martha Simelaro	Commissioner

Kate LeVasseur a member of the public, joined the meeting and is interested in composting

Mr. West made the following announcements to the Council.

- The Planning Commission meeting is on December 10 at 7:30 pm and encouraged the committee to join the meeting.
- Commissioners approved a feasibility study for the Liberty Bell Trail which is a 25-mile trail going from E. Norriton to Quakertown.
- Possibly registering our EAC with an umbrella organization for EAC's.

### 2. Old Business

- a. Presentation on Township Stormwater Efforts to Date – presented by Sandra Zadell

Mrs. Zadell stated our MS-4 program focuses on public education and involvement, illicit discharges, construction/post-construction stormwater and municipal operations. Recent projects include the Pennbrook Basins 2018, Wheaton Basin 2019, and Wissahickon Trails Watershed Project 2020, which was a partnership between Wissahickon Trails, UGT, Merck and PECO and is heralded as the best in stormwater work.

The Township has a lake management company to maintain the basins on a monthly basis. Staff monitors the basins for illicit discharge, as well as test for dry weather flow to monitor pollution.

The Township handles resident's stormwater/flooding complaints, and our staff meets on site to determine needs and take next steps if needed.

Merck partners with UGT on all MS-4 projects to help us meet the requirements of our TMDL.

Resident Comment:

Sheridan Gilbert, 909 Crest Road, said the Township hasn't followed through with his complaint about contractors dumping in the stream. Mrs. Zadell will call him on Tuesday to follow up.

### 3. Plan Review

Mr. West stated that the Council should standardized its plan review process. Mrs. Antoine and Mr. McCartney will coordinate standardizing the process. All EAC members should send their ideas regarding the standardization to Mr. McCartney and Mrs. Antoine.

- a. Merck Building B50 – this is on the Planning Commission agenda on December 10th.

The Council agreed to the following recommendations for the Planning Commission

- Exclusive use of native plants and avoid using invasive species
- Reduce the amount of turf to include more sustainable landscaping (islands of plantings)
- Diversion of some stormwater to a raingarden or other green infrastructure

- b. North Wales Station

This has been tabled until January.

Mrs. Zadell will send the plan to Mr. McCartney, and updates will be sent to the committee prior to review.

### 4. New Business

- a. Council Organization

Mr. West said the Council will work together to define its initiatives and goals for the year each January at an organization meeting.

- b. Initiatives and Committees

Mr. West suggested these initiatives for 2021. These will be added to each agenda moving forward

- Environmental Education & Outreach
  - Newsletter
  - Presence on the website
  - Speaker series
  - Brochure

- Becoming a Tree City or Birdtown USA
- Watershed Friendly Property Certification Program, part of the Penn State extension program where individual property owners who demonstrate watershed-friendly decisions and behaviors can be certified as such.
- Renewable energy
  - Sustainable energy audit for the Township

Mrs. Zadell will report on this topic next month with a new program the Township is involved in with Wissahickon Trails and PEC. They are providing a green infrastructure review of our SALDO and we will be the pilot municipality for this review

Mr. West also suggested guest speakers at our next meeting and will review with Mrs. Zadell.

c. Comprehensive Plan Draft Update

Mrs. Antoine updated the Comprehensive Plan and said the plan was last updated in 2004 and an open space plan in done in 2005. We are working with the Montgomery County Planning Commission on this 2040 plan that explores Townshipwide issues. The draft plan is broken down into chapters such as parks/open space, transportation, sustainability, environment, etc. There are implementation chapters where the recommendations are rated.

d. EAC logo

This was not discussed

5. Motion to approve the Minutes of November 9, 2020

Hearing no comments or questions, upon motion by Ms. Walker seconded by Mrs. Antoine, the motion to approve the minutes of November 9, 2020 was unanimously approved.

6. Adjournment

Mrs. Zadell announced that Parks and Rec is offering a wildlife home for the holidays online program on December 9, 2020. We are partnering with the Natural Lands Trust.

Mr. West adjourned the meeting at 6:43 pm.

Next Meeting January 11, 2020 @ 5:30 pm