

Environmental Advisory Council Meeting
Approved Minutes January 16, 2025
Held in East Fallowfield Township Building

Attendees: John Nielsen, Jeanne Berlin, Teri Dickinson, Paul Brenner, Roger Mustalish, Robert Deist, Tanner Burns, Charles Reed, Amy Poulter Troup, Rita Voit
Absent: Katja DiRado

Meeting called to order at 6:30.

1. Motion made by PB to accept December 2024 minutes as written. CR seconded. Passed unanimously.
2. JN introduced two residents interested in the EAC, Amy Poulter Troup and Rita Voit.
3. JN asked if anyone would be interested in being chair of EAC for 2025. No one stepped up so RB proposed that JN remain chairman. RM seconded. Passed unanimously.
4. JN nominated RD as Vice Chairman for 2025. RM seconded. Passed unanimously.
5. JN nominated JB as Secretary. TD seconded. Passed unanimously.
6. EAC goals and accomplishments were reviewed. These include the Single-Use Plastics Ordinance which will take effect April 25.
7. The feasibility study for the new township complex shows voltaic cells on one side. The EAC needs to prioritize educating the Building Committee regarding grants available for sustainable practices. Grant applications could be part of the Township Manager's responsibility, or the architectural firm, or put out to bid. The first step would be for EAC members to attend a Building Committee meeting to discuss possibilities. JN will contact Chester County Planning to see if they can attend a meeting. RD reviewed the cost of the solar array and LEED certification, according to the completed feasibility study. The next Building Committee meeting is scheduled for the last Monday of the month. JN will try to attend to discuss geothermal possibilities, as well as other green initiatives. More information is needed on the term 'High Performance' Building vs LEEDS?
8. Lawn Conversion: The township's cost of converting lawn to meadow in East Fallowfield Community Park is estimated to be \$500 per acre. Maintenance for the first year would require cutting the meadow growth to 8". We are considering converting 1-2 acres. JN and TD will walk the area being considered.
9. Tree Planting: Stroud Water Research will reschedule the tree planting in the park. This is a three year project, after which the township will take over responsibility for the maintenance.
10. Watershed protection for EV (Extreme Value) Streams in East Fallowfield, including Shale Run and the unnamed stream along Misty Patch. JN will ask the Board of Supervisors for a letter of support for the naming of Schist Creek. JB will then complete the application for the name, to the United States Board on Geographic Names.
11. JN shared a great source of information on invasive plants: "Invasive Forest Plants of the Mid-Atlantic.
12. Tote Bags: JN is working on raising funds for tote bags, planning on 500-750 bags. RM suggested the vendor Vista Print. The cost will most likely be \$1-2 per bag.
13. Park Pond: The condition of the pond at East Fallowfield Park was discussed. TD has contacted a few vendors to get estimates on dredging the pond, and is considering using Simone Collin's to get a price on writing a grant application for dredging. DCNR grant funding is a 50/50 match. TD will contact EAC members when the meetings with contractors are scheduled. Once it has been dredged, the hope is that there will be an improvement in biodiversity. JB will ask Brian Carling for the Pond Watch records, and then compile the information for the future grant application.
14. Old Business: Questions were discussed, to be asked of future followers of the EAC Facebook page. In which township do you reside? It will not be limited to EF residents. What are you interested in? Rules were also discussed that will keep communication civil and exclude advertisements.

15. New Business: TD has put in a request for 23 native trees for EF Park (saplings) from Interfaith Power and Light. They are free and include tubes and stakes. TD will know in February if we will get them. She also shared a landowner's application for free trees, that could be advertised on the Facebook page (these must be applied for by February 3 for the 2025 Spring growing season). RD will look over the information before posting on the page. JN shared information about a Single-Use Plastics movie to be shown on Tuesday, January 21 at the Downingtown Library, hosted by the ChesCo Environmental Alliance. Also, Stroud will be hosting a "Winter Salt Snapshot" on January 31. EAC members will collect samples from our streams for the study. Earth Day is April 26 and West Chester and Phoenixville are planning celebrations. The next ChesCo Alliance Meeting (virtual) will be May 3 from 10-11:00. On Saturday Easton Township EAC is hosting a Repair Cafe. JN will attend and report back. An ordinance was discussed, from East Marlborough Township regarding 'Diseased, Dying, Dead and Dangerous Trees'.

A motion was made by PB to adjourn. CR seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:15.