

WESTTOWN TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL (EAC)
Westtown Municipal Building, 1039 Wilmington Pike, West Chester, PA
Tuesday, September 26, 2023 7:00 PM

Present: EAC members Ray Dandrea (Vice Chair), Russ Hatton, Joe Debes, Meghan Hanney, and Paula Kline (remote), and Township Manager Jonathan Altshul.

I. Call to Order

Ray called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

II. Approval of Minutes

Paula made a motion to approve the minutes of August 22, 2023. Meghan seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

III. Public Comment (non-agenda items)

None.

IV. Old Business

A. Planning Commission Report – Russ reported that the last Planning Commission meeting was canceled, but that the Commission had previously approved a series of recommendations to the Board of Supervisors about the Stokes Estate Conditional Use application. Discussion ensued about the recommendations and the remaining hearings. Meghan suggested that because the next hearing is on October 24, which is the same night as the next EAC meeting, that the EAC spend the first hour of their meeting attending the hearing. The other members of the EAC agreed with that approach.

B. Update on 2024 Budget Request – The EAC requested feedback on the EAC’s 2024 budget proposals. Jon stated that Tom Foster had voiced objections to the solar panel specifications and bid administration and the installation of managed meadows, while the other two members had not expressed a clear position, but that reading between the lines the proposals may not have the support of a majority of the Board. He indicated that the EAC may have more success prioritizing funding proposal for education and outreach initiatives, rather than capital projects and/or facilities management.

C. Update on Westtown Day Planning – Paula indicated that she would bring a banner, and Ray indicated that he would bring a tent, a composting bin and a children’s activity about birds to Westtown Day. Meghan suggested that members also volunteer for some of the more mundane tasks like event parking and set-up.

D. Update on Sustainability Workshop/Expo – Paula provided a summary of the Chester County Sustainability Workshop earlier in the day.

E. Update on CRC Partnership – Meghan stated there would be regular partnerships with CRC moving forward. She noted that the seedball event had been canceled due

to the weather. Jon noted that there were two upcoming CRC/EAC events: 1) a tree planting event in the Cope Tract on October 21 and 2) a nature walk on October 28.

- F. **Consider Next Gazette Article** – Meghan volunteered to write an article about the importance of not cutting down healthy trees, which the EAC supported. Jon stated that the deadline for the Winter Gazette would be around December 1.

V. **New Business**

- A. **Update on Crebilly Acquisition** – Jon reported that there was about a \$2 million funding gap and that Natural Lands would be rolling out a fundraising plan shortly. He stressed that Natural Lands is the expert in fundraising and would lead all aspects of the effort.
- B. **Consider Outreach to Parks & Recreation Commission** – Paula requested to be placed on the agenda for the October 17 Parks and Recreation Commission agenda to discuss opportunities for collaboration. Jon agreed to put this on matter on the next Parks & Recreation agenda under New Business. He noted that anyone else from the EAC could attend, so long as there wasn't a quorum of EAC members present.
- C. **September 14 Chester County Community Composting Seminar Recap** - Ray provided an overview of what he learned from Malvern Borough and Tredyffrin Township about community composting in those municipalities. He explained that Malvern Borough has a program whereby residents pay to participate in a composting pick-up program and the Borough benefits by lower tipping fees due to a reduction in tonnage from less food waste being landfilled. Ray indicated that he would work with Pam Coleman on a proposal about this for future discussion.
- D. **Consider Birdtown USA Application Process** – Ray gave an overview of the Birdtown USA designation process. Jon indicated that some of the Municipal Actions were probably relatively easy to achieve. Russ raised concerns about the administrative burden of this initiative. Joe raised concerns about the EAC spreading itself too thin with this initiative. Jon suggested that Ray discuss this with the Board at its November 6 Workshop.

- VI. **BOS Report** – Meghan will provide the October 16 Departmental Report

VII.

- VIII. **Public Comment** - None

IX. **Announcements**

None.

X. **Adjournment**

There being no further business, Ray moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan Altshul, Township Manager