

WESTTOWN TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL (EAC)
Westtown Municipal Building, 1039 Wilmington Pike, West Chester, PA
Tuesday, March 26, 2024 7:00 PM

Present: EAC members Bob Yeats (Chair), Ray Dandrea (Vice Chair), Russ Hatton, Joe Debes, Mike Gioia, and Township Assistant Manager Mila Carter. Meghan Hanney and Adam Kapp were absent.

I. Call to Order

Bob called the meeting to order at 7:07pm.

II. Approval of Minutes, February 27, 2024

Ray made a motion to approve the minutes of February 27, 2024. Joe seconded. There was no public comment and the motion passed 5-0.

III. Public Comment (non-agenda items)

Bob welcomed a new member, Mike Gioia, to the EAC.

IV. Old Business

A. Update on Crebilly Acquisition – Mila provided a quick summary that the Natural Land Trust (NLT) appeared at the recent Board meeting to provide details on the public fundraising campaign for the Crebilly acquisition and to answer any questions pertaining to that. She explained that the plan was to kick off the campaign at the end of August or beginning of September and end it within 30 days or so. Ray expressed his disappointment over the delay and questioned whether it was a priority for the NLT. Bob agreed that it has been taking too long to get the campaign started and wondered whether any money would be raised as momentum has passed. Bob also expressed that the EAC has offered to provide any assistance with the campaign activities, but recapped that the NLT seemed to have letters ready to send out when the time comes. Ray wondered whether there was anything the EAC could help with, especially during summer to build the interest and moment for preserving the land.

B. Preparation for Composting Exhibition – Bob recapped that the preparations for the composting exhibition was going well and asked whether any assistance was needed. He also noted that the date was advertised in the newsletter and wondered how many people would attend. Ray added that he shared several composting related posters that could be printed. Mila noted that the Township could print flyers in the house for the event and order posters if needed. Ray volunteered to get quotes for the posters. He suggested to have them done in a way that they could be reused for other events. Bob confirmed that no registration was needed and the event was free. Mila raised a question about parking. Joe suggested for attendees to park at the adjacent Aqua property. Mila encourage to reach out to Aqua to make sure there was no issues. The Council discussed other options for parking and felt that it should not be an issue considering the short length of the event.

- C. Riparian Buffer Restoration Project** — Joe recapped that he visited the site with Mark Gross, Director of Public Works, to discuss the extent of the project, placement of trailer and any assistance that might be needed. He noted that there were some concerns about parking the trailer in the grass because the project's area is too wet. Joe also provided that there were some concerns raised by the Township staff about parking within the cul-de-sac. Mila added that it was the best practice to keep these areas free of vehicles in case of emergencies. She asked whether any additional outreach for volunteers was needed. Joe noted that he reached out to several organizations, including the Rustin High School, and thought there might be no need for additional assistance. Mila suggested to keep a list and let everyone know if more help was needed. Joe provided that Megan and Mila were working on the letter to the property owners along Ashley Road to make them aware and invite to participate in the removal activities.
- D. Update on Gazette Articles** – Ray suggested to write an article on the Bird Town USA and include a bird related content to educate Westtown residents, including information on various available mobile applications, feeders, bird species and etc. He noted that the Bird Town Committee has been established. He asked about scheduling the Committee's meetings. Mila suggested for the Committee to meet during the EAC meetings or establish its own schedule. Joe suggested an article on removal of invasive plants in the Plumly Open Space and what had been accomplished. The EAC agreed that those were great suggestions.
- E. Energy Benchmarking Update** – Bob summarized that Jon Altshul, former Township Manager, provided the data for benchmarking and wanted to make sure that the reporting would continue. Mila noted she would look into that.

V. New Business

- A. Recap of Discussion with Board** – Bob summarized the joint meeting. He highlighted that the Board was very receptive of the proposed priorities. Bob also recapped the Board's suggestion for the EAC to look into potential roadside cleaning opportunities. Ray suggested to investigate the Keep America Beautiful and other roadway beautification focused initiatives and report back to the EAC.
- B. Bird Town USA Designation** – Ray noted that the resolution to support the efforts for Westtown to be recognized as a "Bird Town" had been signed. He explained that the next step was to complete and submit an application. Ray provided a copy of the narrative for the EAC to review and provide feedback.
- C. Roadside Trash Removal** – The EAC agreed to research on the subject matter to discuss at the next meeting.
- D. Managed Meadow** – Mila explained that it was Meghan's suggestion to bring the ordinance back for the discussion. She shared the content of proposed language and explained that it was at a standstill at this point. The EAC felt it was important to support the adoption of the ordinance that would encourage managed meadows on private property.

VI. BOS Report – None.

VII. Public Comment – None.

VIII. Announcements

A. Reminder that the April meeting for the EAC has been moved from April 23 to April 30.

IX. Adjournment

There being no further business, Ray adjourned the meeting at 8:45pm

Respectfully submitted,

Mila Carter, Assistant Township Manager

DRAFT