

WESTTOWN TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL (EAC)
Westtown Municipal Building, 1039 Wilmington Pike, West Chester, PA
Tuesday, April 30, 2024 7:00 PM

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

I. Call to Order

Bob called the meeting to order at 7:05pm.

II. Approval of Minutes, March 26, 2024

Russ made a motion to approve the minutes of March 26, 2024. Ray seconded. There was no public comment and the motion passed 4-0.

III. Public Comment (non-agenda items)

IV. Old Business

A. Preparation for Composting Exhibition - Joe stated that everything was in order for the upcoming exhibition. He noted that he would install temporary signage to let attendees know where to park. He asked for the address to be included on the website. Mila stated that it was included in the newsletter which went out to every resident. Ray added that he would bring his composting bin and worms for demonstration and that posters with composting information have been ordered. He believed that the posters can be reused for other events in the future, including Westtown Day. Bob asked to make it clear on the event's page that it would be a rain or shine event. Mila reminded the EAC to take pictures during the event. She suggested for a listserv to go out as a reminder about the upcoming exhibition.

B. Riparian Buffer Restoration Project Update - Joe recapped the attendance and progress made with volunteers on removal of invasive plants along the stream at the Plumly Open Space. He expressed gratitude for all participants, including Public Works staff, neighbors, Penn State Watershed Stewards, Chester County Conservation District (CCCD), Bayard Rustin High School Environmental Science club, and EAC members. Joe also announced that he met with the representatives from the Outdoor Corp as an introduction for potential plans for the next year. He acknowledged that it was challenging to get volunteers to commit and wondered how participation could be increased in the future. Joe suggested to write an article about the project. Russ noted that it was the first time for the Council to do something like that. Joe wondered about long term maintenance of the cleared area and asked whether Public Works planned on applying pesticide to prevent growth of invasive plants. Bob asked about frequency of maintenance that might be needed. Joe felt that twice per year should be sufficient. Joe brought up the Township's costs associated with a long term application of herbicides. He pointed out that the worst areas have been cleared and stressed the importance of maintenance. He asked whether Public Works would take over the upkeep of these areas. Ray recapped that site visit with Mark Gross, Public Works Director, and noted there were discussions about tree plantings in the fall with the assistance of the CCCD. Joe suggested for the riparian buffer to be widened and offered

options for partnerships for tree plantings. Mila suggested to plan early to be able to secure volunteers. Bob acknowledged that removal of invasive plants was a hard work and stressed a need for helpers to make it a success. Ray suggested to invite the Board for a site visit to show the progress being made. Bob suggested for the EAC to focus on evaluating other areas in the Township which might be in need of invasive plant removal. He believed that reaching out to the Chester Ridley Crum (CRC) Watersheds Association for assistance with tree planting was a good idea.

C. Bird Town USA Designation - Ray recapped that the Township's application into the Bird Town USA program has been accepted. He noted that there will be a virtual introductory meeting with Heidi Shiver, President of Bird Town, on May 9 to review a welcome packet. Mila explained that Heidi would also attend the upcoming Board of Supervisors meeting after which a kick off meeting with the Bird Town Committee would be scheduled. She suggested for those discussions to take place during the EAC meetings on a regular basis or as determined by the Committee members. Mila also suggested to include a blurb about the Township's acceptance into the program in the upcoming newsletter.

D. Roadside Trash Removal - Ray recapped that he reached out to the Keep PA Beautiful and did not receive any response. Bob suggested to focus attention on local roadways and to reach out to other municipalities that have participated in such initiatives. All agreed that more research and appropriate contacts are needed to move forward.

E. Energy Benchmarking Update - The item had been tabled until the next meeting.

V. New Business – None.

VI. BOS Report – None.

VII. Public Comment – None.

VIII. Announcements

A. Ray announced that the next EAC network meeting is scheduled for the fall.

IX. Adjournment

There being no further business, Bob adjourned the meeting at 8:33pm

Respectfully submitted,

Mila Carter, Assistant Township Manager