

WESTTOWN TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL (EAC)
Westtown Municipal Building, 1039 Wilmington Pike, West Chester, PA
Tuesday, October 22, 2024 7:00 PM

Present: EAC members Bob Yeats (Chair), Ray Dandrea (Vice Chair), Joe Debes, Mike Gioia, and Russ Hatton. Adam Kapp and Kim Maialetti were absent. Also present was Mila Carter, Township manager.

I. Call to Order

Bob called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.

II. Approval of Minutes

- Bob made a motion to approve the minutes of August 27, 2024. Joe seconded. There was no public comment, and the motion passed 5-0.
- Russ made a motion to approve the minutes of September 24, 2024. Joe seconded. There was no public comment, and the motion passed 5-0.

III. Public Comment (non-agenda items)

None.

IV. Old Business

A. Roadside Trash Cleanup Initiative

Bob raised a question about the next steps following the presentation to the Council by the Litter Lifters of West Vincent at the previous meeting. He suggested that Mike would take a lead on organizing the initial effort. Bob also suggested to share materials provided by Beth Intoccia, Chairperson of Litter Lifters, with Mike to explore the possibility of planning event for 2025. Ray recapped some details that Beth provided about how to organize the first roadside cleanup effort and a checklist of items to consider. Bob added that focusing on a smaller group effort might be a good idea from a safety standpoint. Ray believed that it can be expanded in the future once the effort gains momentum and there is a pool of interested volunteers to work with. Mike asked whether the effort should be focused on Street Road and/or Shiloh Road. Bob wondered whether Route 352 shall be considered as well. Mike thought there was not much trash along South Concord Road. Ray believed there was more trash on the Westtown's side of Street Road and wondered whether it was due to wind patterns. Joe asked how the effort could be initiated. Mike suggested to come up with the plan and focus on a specific roadway as a start. His main concern was to address any safety related issues. Bob pointed out that Litter Lifters coordinate with local and state police departments to keep participants safe. Bob felt that Mike would be the most appropriate person to lead the effort. Ray suggested to reach out to Westtown School to see if they might have an interest to participate. The Council agreed.

B. Rustin High School Environmental Club

Bob recapped that he and Joe was working on presentation to meet with the environmental club. He noted that there was no response from coordinator yet, but hoped to have it scheduled for November or December. Ray wondered whether there

might be another contact at the school. Bob would follow up with the school advisor and report back.

V. New Business

A. Revised Priorities and Budget Request for 2025

Mike recapped that the Board was not in favor of invasive removal proposal noted as a priority for the EAC. He further added that the Board felt it fell under Public Works responsibility. Bob suggested to focus on the Blenheim Road open space, considering previous tree planting efforts by the Chester Ridley Crum (CRC) Watershed Association and its volunteers in that area. He further noted that planted trees needed immediate attention. Joe provided that Penn State Extension provides recommendations for tree maintenance and asked who is responsible for upkeep after the planting has taken place. Mike summarized the other priorities, such as community involvement event and roadways cleanup effort. Bob suggested to have additional details for the Board on each priority prior to the meeting. The Council agreed to work on specific details. Joe made a motion to present to the Board of Supervisors the revised budget, which includes Bird Town birdhouses and signs, roadside cleanup events and volunteer projects, community outreach efforts and Westtown Day expenses for a total of \$5,000. Russ seconded. There was no public Comment, and the motion passed 5-0.

B. Westtown Day Recap

Mike suggested to consider some sort of giveaway at the next year's event to increase participation and interest in the EAC's initiatives. Bob noted that crafting activity was a great idea that attracted families to the EAC's table. Russ suggested to consider a better wayfinding signage for the next event to direct visitors and thought that placing environmental groups next to each other would be beneficial.

C. Pleasant Grove Invasive Plant Removal (Blenheim Road)

The agenda item has been discussed under agenda item A.

D. Tree Planting with Chester Ridley Crum (CRC) Watershed Association

Joe reminded about the tree planting event coming up.

VI. Bird Town Committee Report

Ray summarized that the Committee discussed the logistics of communication and notifications sent by Bird Towns USA. He noted that Bird Town was in the process of collecting examples of interpretive (educational) signage, which might be useful for the Committee. Bob also suggested to check out natural areas in other municipalities for ideas. Ray further provided that Allyson Debes was working on the content for Bird Town webpage.

VII. Planning Commission Report

Russ provided the Planning Commission's report from the October 9th meeting.

VIII. BOS Report

Mike was absent to provide a report of the Board's September 16th meeting.

IX. Public Comment (All Topics)
None.

X. Announcements

- A. Ray announced that the virtual Bird Town PA Annual Summit was scheduled for November 7th. He noted that he submitted several slides to share with the attendees on the EAC's accomplishments, specifically invasive removal project at Plumly Open Space.
- B. Mila announced that the applicant will present a revised settlement proposal for the Stokes Estate residential development at the next Board's meeting.

XI. Adjournment

There being no further business, Bob adjourned the meeting at 8:32 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Liudmila Carter
Township Manager