

Westtown Township Environmental Advisory Council Annual Report 2023

I. Introduction

The Westtown Township Environmental Advisory Council (“EAC”) provides advisement to the Board of Supervisors on matters dealing with protection, conservation, management, promotion, and use of natural resources. The natural resources include air, land, and water resources, located within the Township. In addition, the EAC serves an important role in providing local community outreach and education through regular programming and scheduled events. The EAC’s approach to enhancing sustainability and preserving the environment is to demonstrate leadership by example at the personal level and to inspire action at the citizen level.

The Westtown Township EAC consists of seven at large voting members and a liaison member from the Township Staff, Jon Altshul. The current members at the beginning of 2024 are: Bob Yeats (Chair) Ray Dandrea (Vice Chair) Russ Hatton, Meaghan Hanney, Adam Kupp, Joe Debes and one position left vacant with Paula Kline stepping down after serving for the first 3 years.

II. Activities of the EAC in 2023

a. Routine Participation at/or from the EAC

- Attend BOS meetings to give monthly reports.
- Attend BOS Workshop meetings to present advisement.
- Planning Commission report and summary review every month which is delivered by Russ Patton (Vice Chair of Planning Commission)
- Contributions to the quarterly issued Gazette.
- Propose Single-Use Plastics Ban
- Plumly Meadow Proposal has been reviewed several times and is now more viable with the recently passed Meadow Management Ordinance.
- Participated in a review of the Stokes Estate Conditional Use drawing set.
- Clean Energy recommendations.
- EV Charging Station Locations
- Recommended EV Charging Stations at Newly Renovated Oakbourne Park

b. Community Education and Outreach

- EAC and CRC Watershed jointly participated in the Riparian Buffer Installation Event at Pleasant Grove Open Space.
- EAC-CRC Native Bees Talk and Seed Ball Craft Event – (Hope this happens next year since 2023 was a rain out)
- EAC-CRC Tree ID Walk at Oakbourne Park,
- EAC and CRC Watershed jointly participated in the Riparian Buffer Installation Event in Cope Tract

- EAC had a Compost Demonstration next to our table at Westtown Day at Oakbourne Park.
- EAC had a sustainability tent with multiple pieces of information to inform residents how they can participate in a meaningful and impactful manner to make our community more sustainable in the future at the annual Westtown Day event at Oakbourne Park.
- EAC represented at the annual Westtown Day with a variety of handouts for Environmental Awareness. A signup sheet to volunteer for Birdtown USA collected potential volunteer's signatures to be on the committee. Another popular signup that collected signatures was for a Compost Exchange initiative.

c. Ordinances and Resolutions

- A resolution proposed by Ray Dandrea for Westtown Township to apply to become a formal Birdtown PA
- An Ordinance amending Chapter 170, Zoning, of the code of Westtown Township to permit Managed Meadows was submitted by Jon Altshul.

d. Other activities in 2023

- EAC members have participated in the following local events:
 - WeConservePA EAC fall gathering.
 - Chester County Sustainability Workshop / Expo
 - Chester County Community Composting Seminar
 - EAC Ordinance Adoption

III. Reminder of EAC 2022 Achievements and Goals

- Sustainability contest
- Support for biodiversity/stormwater management/riparian zones
- Review and consider existing or amended ordinances and provide online resources to encourage residences to plant native and avoid invasive and improve stormwater management.
- Encourage specific plantings for riparian zones to share with landowners.
- Create plans to transition land held by the township to native plants and effective stormwater management plants or managed meadows.
- Clean Energy Transition
- Continue to extend Outreach and Education
 - a. Possible monthly sessions divided between hands/in person and virtual coordination with CRC, Friends of Oakbourne, PECO, Stroud, Clean Energy Futures of West Chester Area Council of Governments, etc.

Submitted by