

**WESTTOWN TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL (EAC)**  
**Westtown Municipal Building, 1039 Wilmington Pike, West Chester, PA**  
**Tuesday, January 28, 2025 7:00 PM**

**Present:** EAC members Bob Yeats, Ray Dandrea, Russ Hatton, Joe Debes, Mike Gioia, and Kim Maialetti. Absent was Adam Kapp. Also present was Township Manager Mila Carter.

**Call to Order**

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

**Adoption of Agenda** JD/BY (6-0)

Joe recommended to add one more agenda item under New Business. He made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Bob seconded. There was no public comment, and all were in favor of the motion.

**Election of Officers**

Kim nominated Bob Yeats as Chair. Joe seconded. There was no other nomination, and all were in favor of the motion.

Bob nominated Joe Debes as Vice Chair. Kim seconded. There was no other nomination, and all were in favor of the motion.

Bob asked for nominations for Secretary. Russ volunteered. Bob nominated Russ Hatton as Secretary. Kim seconded. There was no other nomination, and all were in favor of the motion.

**Approval of Minutes, November 26, 2024**

The minutes were tabled until the next meeting.

**Announcements**

None.

**Public Comment (non-agenda items)**

1. Janet Amighi, 1461 Overhill Road, commented that she met with Kathy Cook from the Chester County Plastic Pollution Task Force and was looking forward to her presenting at the EAC meeting. She suggested for the EAC to include goals in the newsletter to encourage public participation in specific projects, such as the use of solar powered mowers. Janet provided that she has shared her ideas with the West Chester Borough which implemented the plastic bag ban, but did little to no enforcement. Janet specified that the residents were ready to implement the ban, but there is no support from the current mayor. Bob provided that EAC recommended plastic bag ban as a priority for 2025. Ray noted that unfortunately, a full video pertaining to plastic pollution is not available, but there is a shorter version that can provide an insight into the issue. He hoped that Kathy Cook will assist EAC with gaining support for plastic bag ban. Janet also suggested for shopping centers to utilize motion activated lights where possible to prevent lighting pollution. Kim provided some details about the No Plastics Campaign in New Jersey and wondered whether there were some lessons learnt which can be applicable to Westtown. Bob wondered whether Kathy Cook was familiar with that as she participated in the

Westtown Township Environmental Advisory Council January 28, 2025

development of specific ordinances. He also provided that Kathy mentioned that only 8% of plastics that get put out is being recycled.

### **Old Business**

- 1. Roadside Trash Cleanup Initiative RD/JD (7-0)** – Mike explained that the application has been submitted to PennDOT for adoption of segment of Route 926 from Route 202 to Shiloh Road (a 2 mile section) for EAC to maintain. He suggested that the next step would be to secure volunteers and establish the potential date for cleanup efforts. Mike suggested two cleanup events per year based on commitment of volunteers. He also felt that it was important to have a social media group to correspond with volunteers. Bob noted that Litter Lifters suggested a smaller number of volunteers to make it more manageable and wondered whether the first event could be done with just the Council members. Kim asked about the number of volunteers potentially needed. She suggested to have all EAC members who can bring one more person each to the first event. Kim also suggested to invite the Board to participate. Mila noted that the Council did not formally approve the application and suggested to do so retroactively.

Joe made a motion to recommend to the Board of Supervisors adoption of Route 926 (E street Road) roadway segment from the intersection of Route 202 and Route 926 to Shiloh Road by the EAC for long-term cleanup efforts. Bob seconded. All were in favor of the motion.

- 2. Rustin High School Environmental Club Outreach** – Bob explained that due to a snow event, previously scheduled session was cancelled and he had trouble getting a hold of the club. Kim suggested to think about various opportunities for the students to engage with the EAC.

### **New Business**

- 1. EAC Attendance at Board Meetings** – Bob reminded the group to review the attendance schedule and let Mila or him know if there are any conflicts to ensure coverage.
- 2. 2015 Newsletter Gazette Articles** – Mila noted that the newsletter is ready to go out and asked whether EAC had an article in mind besides the announcement about the upcoming Crebilly Preserve cleanup event. Mike suggested to list EAC's initiatives. Joe added that he could provide a summary of all activities. Kim thought that recap of 2024 accomplishments was great and suggested to include a call of action to keep public engaged. The Council agreed. There was a discussion about the schedule of various articles for this year and a suggestion to have a running list and a designated person to make it easier.
- 3. Annual Report for 2024** – Joe provided a copy of an annual report that he has put together and asked for feedback. The Council will review and provide comments by the next meeting to finalize the report in preparation for a joint meeting with the Board of Supervisors. The proposed meeting date was March 17.
- 4. Preparation for Earth Day Cleanup at Crebilly Preserve** – Bob provided that he would reach out to the Westminster Presbyterian Church for a permission to use its parking lot

for staging area and volunteer parking for the event. Ray presented a draft map that displayed various sections (10) of cleaning efforts and associated parking areas. There was a discussion about the extent of cleaning efforts. Ray suggested to primarily focus on cleaning along the roadways for the entirety of Crebilly Farm, including residential lots. Mila thought that interior of the Preserve, especially along the streams, was in need of cleaning as well. Kim summarized that more planning was needed to get it all figured out. Ray mentioned that Public Works will need to be involved as well as the police to assist with the event. He suggested for the event to start very early.

5. **Westtown School Outreach** – Joe noted that he and Bob would be meeting with the Director of Sustainability of Westtown School on February 4<sup>th</sup> and report back.
6. **Bird Towns Annual Report** – Ray shared a copy of the annual report that was submitted to Bird Town USA. He explained about the scoring system and noted that the Committee would like to work towards next level. He summarized the planned activities, which include posting of additional signage, installation of bluebird boxes and potential pollinator garden. Ray hoped that the Committee could potentially work towards the bronze level this year. He would share the excel spreadsheet that shows scores for each initiative with the EAC.
7. **Recap of the Chester County EACs Meeting** – Ray felt that it was beneficial to share ideas and news and collaborate on various initiatives. Kim summarized a few ideas generated by the attendance at the meeting, including review of the County’s Climate Action Plan for what EAC could do to support these efforts and any priorities that can be implemented, such as lawn to meadow conversion. Russ thought that the County’s website is rather underutilized and explained that it provides many resources that are helpful to Commissions. He suggested to potentially spend some time at the EAC meeting to review those as a group. Joe also suggested that the Comprehensive Plan has several recommendations pertaining to the EAC’s related activities.
8. **Salt Sampling Event** - Joe summarized the multistate effort of preventing salt in the streams with a sampling event. He explained that one can collect a sample in the stream marking the location and bring it to West Chester Borough for analysis. He encouraged EAC members to participate.

### **Public Comment (All Topics)**

None.

### **Reports**

1. Adam summarized the Board of Supervisors meeting of January 6.
2. Ray summarized the Bird Town Committee meeting of January 28.
3. Russ summarized the Planning Commission meetings of January 8 and 22.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, Bob adjourned the meeting at 8:40pm

Respectfully submitted,  
*Mila Carter*, Township Manager

DRAFT