

Environmental Advisory Council of Tredyffrin Township
Meeting Minutes: August 26, 2025

Members: (5) Jonathan Wilson (Chair) Amber Levy (Vice Chair), Jennifer Cox (Secretary), Anne Murphy, Tracy Viola.

Associates: Dale Kline, Brandon Banaschewski, Phil Witmer, Gus Feudale, Kim Tempas,

Guests: Linda Nelsen, Monty Harris, John Whelan, Winnie Shaw-Hope.

Liaisons: KS Bhaskar (Supervisor), David Midgley (Engineering), Ernie Falcone (Historical Commission).

- Call to order: 7pm
- June minutes approved
- Welcome guests

Updates

- Engineer's report: Several projects are underway in the Township: Glenhardie Bridge is scheduled to open next week, following the repair of minor, adjacent sink-holes. The Upper-Weadley project will begin, after a meeting with the Chester County Conservation district, and is scheduled to continue through April of next year; infiltration trenches will be installed to prevent flooding in the neighborhoods downhill to Pugh Road. The Gregory-Lane-Phase-2 project construction will begin -replacing inlets- in the second week of September and will last approximately 2 months (weather dependent).
- Treasury report: \$2,858.41 final reimbursement check for rain garden grant is being wired by the DEP. Anne suggested that, in the future, the EAC should administer grants independently
- Historical Commission: The commission continues to work on writing an historic preservation ordinance and hopes to coordinate with the EAC; they are looking for a member who is interested in working with the commission on cross-over areas for preserving the historical and *environmental* value of structures. As an example, the commission is considering the benefit of ADUs on historical properties, and seeks EAC input on how they could be constructed in a way that preserves/enhances a property's ecological value.
- Parks and Rec
- Planning Commission/Zoning Hearing Board
 - 602 Old Eagle School Road subdivision application – withdrawn for now, but will be a good case-study for discussion purposes. Anne asked that she and Jon be added to the distribution list to receive documents prior planning commission meetings.
- Parks Stewardship:
 - Wilson Farm Park:
 - 91 trees to be planted by contractor at Wilson Farm Park. EAC will follow up with the Township regarding deer-rub protection. Gus raised

maintenance concerns, with such a large number of new trees for public works to care for, and suggested that saucers/mulch circles be placed around the new trees. As a first step, Amber recommended that the EAC reach out to Public Works and ask what we can do to help.

- WFP Rain gardens: All shrubs have survived (watered three times). Rain garden cages need weeding. (Chuck C. weed whacked around all cages)
- Bird houses need maintenance.
- Three white oaks, one dogwood, one shrub lost during 2024 (three can be replaced at no charge).
- No possibility to water our trees during construction. Public works has been watering them.
- Tree and shrub cages need weeding before Community Day, looking for EAC volunteers to help on September 6th. Amber will reach out to Key Club.
- Grant available from Chuck Cutshall and Bank of America this fall or next spring for EAC projects, including Wilson Farm Park, Bocce Grove, and/or Strafford Park.
- Mazie B. Hall Park
 - Knotweed being addressed but slow progress. No planting until at least 2027.
- Bocce Grove Park
 - Knotweed largely eradicated. Wildflower seeding put down this spring under large maple was accidentally mowed by public works. Put up a sign, flagging, and will reseed this fall.
 - Possibility to plant five shade trees this fall with Chuck C. and Bank of America funding. Surrey for Seniors has volunteered outside water access. Phil and Anne are going to assess the possibility of planting trees. Amber offered to place a tree order with Octorara; the EAC could get discount (for larger order).
- Valley Creek Restoration Partnership:
 - Largest storm logged to date on June 30/July 1. First time Beechwood 2 may have exceeded its three-foot depth capacity and briefly overflowed into the storm drainage system, but otherwise all stormwater runoff captured to date by the trench since installation in February has been infiltrated.
 - Salt Snapshot (coordinated with Stroud): Crabby Creek: tentatively scheduled for Saturday October 4 (~10am); Jon Wilson and Dave Manning points of contact. Jon is looking for volunteers: Brandon, Linda, and possibly, Jennifer and Mike.
 - Salt in our streams program: Jenkins virtual program, Thursday, December 18, Kate Hutelmyer, Chester County Water Resources Authority, 7pm.
 - Looking to submit a second grant with the Trustee Council.
- Crabby Creek Park:

- Good progress on invasives control of knotweed and mugwort (nearly gone), multiflora rose, some progress on garlic mustard. Bittercress and stilt grass still abundant, repeat hand pulls of larger plants next spring.
 - 100% survival on October 2024 trees despite no watering or weeding to date.
 - Minor weeding of cages of 2024 fall planting needed this fall.
 - Both sides of trail loaded with buried, broken up tile pipes and fabric from sewer line construction.
- Parks Survey update/long term planning:
 - Strafford Park: Invasives slowly being reduced, some new plantings could be installed at Strafford Park walkway garden and rain garden next spring after spring weeding. Brandon and Samantha to work on a source for native plants in the Strafford Library walkway garden.
- Education:
 - Aqua – Essentials grant: Discuss options for new grant; Amber and Anne are considering an HOA-focused educational event about stormwater basins. Green Hills HOA expressed an interest in participating. Linda suggested native plant lists to share.
 - Community Day is Saturday, October 5th: what would we like to share? Ideas shared: Tracy-tips for green cleaning products. Amber-composting game with Velcro.: Linda-seeds give away and master watershed games/resources.
- Recycling & Waste Management:
 - Township Building as second location for TREX (thanks to more volunteers!)
 - Gas-powered leaf blowers: Lower Merion Township Staff plan to bring a leaf blower ordinance (seasonal ban only) to a Board of Commissioners Sustainability Committee meeting in September. Tracy will view the final draft ordinance. Discussion of different approaches: Lower Marion is bringing an ordinance while West Norriton has a rebate program.
 - Lack of leaf-bag pickups by waste haulers (despite ordinance): actions we can take? Discussion of township leaf drop off.
- Rain Garden Program:
 - Weeding of rain garden –Thursday August 28 at 9 am: Amber, Anne, Jennifer to help.
- Clean Energy:
- Woodland Conservation Ordinance Update:
 - Erin still has revision of the permit application per our model on her to do list.
 - 2024 and early 2025 permits' compensatory trees to be planted this fall. EAC to touch base with code enforcement, and offer support to insure follow-through on compensatory tree planting.
- School District
 - \$8,000 Donation from Anne Ikeda for Valley Forge Road Trees on VF Middle School property. Anne to attend September 9 Facilities Committee meeting, and September 29 School Board meeting to get approval.

- Old/New Business
 - Request from Erin: Research into bamboo ordinances. Guest and township resident, John Whelan discussed the difficult challenge of removing bamboo from his property (backing onto Trout Creek). John is working with Anne on the initial research on township bamboo ordinances. Amber suggested that we search for a model ordinance on We Conserve PA.
 - EAC fall gathering will take place in the first part of November
- Next meeting on September 23rd.
- Parks and Rec. Deer management proposal turned down by board of Parcel 19 in Chesterbrook, but Green Hills HOA is interested. Dale will attend next Parks and Rec. meeting to get approval for proposed tree planting at Bocce Park.
- Phil to give a bird/window collision talk at Tredyffrin Public Library on September 20th, 1:30-3:30 pm.

Meeting adjourned: 8:50

Next meeting on Tuesday, September 23rd