

Environmental Advisory Council of Tredyffrin Township Meeting Minutes: March 24, 2026

In attendance: Anne Murphy, Dave Midgely, Tracy Viola, Samantha Whiteside, Linda Nelson, KS Bhaskar, Kim Tempas, Winnie Shaw Hope, Dale Kline, Amber Atwood Levy, Jonathan Wilson

- Call to order
- Approval of February minutes

Updates

- Engineer's report
 - Township engineer provided updates on current projects
 - EAC members expressed concerns regarding equipment and materials stored within 5-10 feet of stream in floodplain at 809 Contention Lane instead of required 50 feet; Anne to send follow-up note to Code Enforcement regarding stream setback violations
- Historical Commission
 - No updates
- Treasurer's report:
 - Originally budget for Heritage Tree Project reduced due to smaller size, so funds raised by Girl Scout Vivian Peng are sufficient; EAC will instead contribute fencing
- Parks and Rec report:
 - 3/11 Parks and Rec meeting:
 - Approved planting site of heritage tree in Strafford Park from Girl Scout project
 - Friendship Park:
 - Coordination with Engineering Dept suggested mapping out location of planting sites for proposed donation of 5 trees
 - Parks & Rec Board to make final decision on tree placement
- Planning Commission
 - No agenda items
- Zoning Hearing Board:
 - EAC planning to attend meeting on March 26 to discuss North Valley Forge Road project parking lot expansion of Chabad Jewish Center to address any waivers requested regarding impervious cover or tree ordinance due to stormwater concerns
- Parks Stewardship:
 - Wilson Farm Park: None
 - Earth Day cage/tree maintenance and replanting: schedule in April
 - Mazie B. Hall Park: None
 - Bocce Grove Park: None
 - Valley Creek Restoration Partnership:

- Anne, Dave Manning, and Pete Goodman taking over maintenance of infiltration bed sensors for Year 2 of grant
 - Sensors continue to be maintained by VCRP and on-going data collection are going well
 - Crabby Creek Park:
 - Macroinvertebrates already collected by VFTU in March and sent to lab, EAC to skip macro survey with scouts for 2026 to minimize impact on stream
 - Scheduled Garlic mustard/narrow leaf bittercress pull for invasive plant management for Saturday, April 11, 10am with EAC members and plan to invite Conestoga High School students
 - Parks Survey /long term planning:
 - Volunteer sub-group created to check health status and verify installation of deer protection on Township compensatory trees planted in 2025 (Cedar Hollow, Wills Lane, Glenhardie Road, Strafford Park, Wilson Farm Park) prior to next meeting
- Education & Outreach:
 - Follow-up litter cleanup at Trout Creek tributary behind Gateway Shopping Center
 - Initial cleanup on January 19th impacted by snow
 - Plan to meet on March 28th at 11am
 - Program with Jenkins Arboretum re: Beech Leaf Disease, held March 8
 - School grounds cleanup events:
 - Valley Forge Elementary School: 75% litter reduction observed due to change in policy requiring students to eat snacks inside
 - Hillside Elementary:
 - 70 people attended event
 - Recommendation to share Valley Forge's new snack policy with leadership at Hillside
 - Beaumont Elementary proposed as future cleanup site
 - Streamside Landowner Assistance on Col. Dewees: Anne, Chuck Cutshall, Susanne
 - Resident had knotweed treated and EAC helped chop down stalks for removal; may need livestock support
 - Landowner says township assumption of property on Park Ridge has helped with flooding
 - UMLY Earth Day Fair:
 - EAC planning to attend Saturday, April 18, 10am to 1pm, and table
 - Aqua – Essentials Grant update:
 - Proposed site location change for naturalized basin project from a stormwater basin managed by an HOA in the Chesterbrook community to the stormwater basin located at Valley Forge Elementary School
 - Tredyffrin Library staff supports change
 - School basin suitability to be evaluated by Weeds Inc. and will require

approval vote at TESD Facilities Committee Meeting before moving to School Board meeting for approval

- Recycling:
 - Glass bin:
 - Community survey to be designed to ascertain community interest level
 - Trex Plastic Film Recycling:
 - Reached 250 lb. recycling mark in first quarter, earning a \$100 NexTrex gift certificate
 - Tracy Viola authorized to use gift certificate to purchase Trex liner bags from NexTrex
 - Trex Program change: entered into a drawing each quarter once hit 250lb mark instead of earning bench directly
 - Gas-powered leaf blowers:
 - EAC members plan to attend Radnor Town Hall meetings regarding Radnor Township's proposed three-year phase out
 - Skip the Slip
 - Tracy finding increased community interest in ongoing grassroots campaign to reduce receipt waste
- Rain Garden Program:
 - Weeds Inc. to provide recommendations on invasive plant management for library rain garden
- Woodland Conservation Ordinance Update:
 - Work on ongoing ordinance and mailing, how residents can report
 - How to report clear cutting (more than 5 trees, including heritage):
 - Take pictures
 - Submit via website
 - Code enforcement doesn't work weekends, so pictures are a necessity
 - Can call/email code enforcement but need a house number and street name
 - Chesco Views
- School District
 - Hillside School cleanup- nearly 70 volunteers, including 20 students plus their parents
 - Valley Forge Elementary- greatly reduced trash due to moving of snack time indoors
 - Need to check status of deer protection on new high school trees (compensatory and high school plantings)
- Old/New Business
 - Bamboo ordinance proposal:
 - Guidance needed for stream-adjacent bamboo removal to prevent erosion
 - Easttown EAC Pollinator Garden Program, Meadows Program:
 - Planting along Lancaster Ave
 - Would need point person for Tredyffrin EAC to continue project through

Tredyffrin township

- DCED Walkable Communities Grant for Swedesford and Valley Forge Road:
 - Grant only for multi-use trail so need to look for new funding option for sidewalk project
 - Alternative funding sources being pursued
- 2027 Comprehensive Plan for Tredyffrin Township:
 - Planning Department updating township Comprehensive Plan, then Zoning Map and Zoning ordinance, allowing for potential future opportunities in 2027 to update environmental protection language
- Discussion of data center proposals in southeastern PA townships:
 - Concern expressed about alarming trend of using land rezoning to make it difficult for municipalities to prevent data center development
 - Tredyffrin Township does not fit into pattern of recent development as township lacks scale of size data centers
 - Any zoning change goes before Board of Supervisors and current administration against data center development
 - Current noise, water, and resource requirements also contribute to regulation