



New Britain Township

Environmental Advisory Council

Kathleen Davis, Chair	Cynthia Jones, Supervisor, Liaison
Lucy Jones, Vice - Chair	Alex Mullin, Secretary, NBT Staff
Mary Margaret Briggs, Member	
Geraldine Reuter, Member	
Carol Weston-Young, Member	

Minutes – August 5th, 2026

Attended: K. Davis, M. Briggs, C. Weston-Young, L. Jones, A. Mullin, C. Jones

Regrets: G. Reuter

Meeting was called to order by K. Davis @ 7:00 pm.

Discussion:

- Approval of Minutes – C. Weston-Young motioned, and M. Briggs seconded a motion to approve the July 1st, 2026 minutes. The EAC unanimously approved the motion.
- The EAC discussed options for incorporating a bird bath into the Pollinator Garden. M. Briggs suggested utilizing the existing tree trunk as a base for the bird bath, with the potential addition of a native aquatic plant. The tree trunk would need to be leveled prior to installation. Kind Earth was identified as a potential source for native water plants. Members discussed various bird bath materials, with consideration given to durability, ease of cleaning, and maintenance. The possibility of incorporating a solar-powered pump to circulate the water was also discussed.
- The fence posts have been installed around the Pollinator Garden. Cardboard will be placed throughout the garden area, after which Public Works will install the mulch.
- The EAC members discussed the Berry Zone located in front of the concession stand, which currently contains eight (8) thriving berry bushes. Members noted an ongoing thistle issue, with L. Jones has been actively working to remove. The placement of cardboard is expected to assist with continued control.
- The EAC members discussed expanding the protective cages around the berry bushes to provide additional room for growth. Members agreed that funding for expanded cages should be considered in the 2027 budget.
- An additional rain barrel is currently in storage near the Public Works shed. The EAC members agreed to connect the two rain barrels in a daisy-chain configuration. A. Mullin will contact Public Works to coordinate completion of the installation.



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- The EAC members discussed logistics and volunteer needs for the Fall Festival. L. Jones will provide one table, Terry Young will provide two tables, and G. Reuter will provide one table. Collectively, the group has access to two tents for the event.
- The EAC members will bring the EnviroScope, Bird Town presentation materials, seeds, additional native plant brochures, and a rain barrel. The rain barrel will be used as an educational display.
- Township Manager Nick Valla suggested using the Fall Festival as an opportunity to promote the Township's Open Space Plan. The EAC members discussed creating an Open Space poster for the event, along with a handout outlining ways residents can contribute to and support open space within the Township.
- The EAC members discussed plans for the North Branch Basin tree planting scheduled for October 8, beginning at 9:00 a.m. Approximately 150 trees and shrubs will be planted as part of a grant-funded project to support the Township's MS4 requirements. The planting holes will be pre-augured prior to the event.
- Merck will participate as part of its Day of Service, along with the Bucks County Conservation District. The Conservation District will provide a trailer with tools and equipment. Public Works will also assist with water tanks and other necessary equipment on the day of the planting. The EAC members discussed sending letters to nearby residents requesting volunteers, explaining the planting project, and providing information about the Township's MS4 requirements.
- The members also discussed the proposed grid layout for the tree plantings. C. Weston-Young expressed concern regarding the spacing. C. Jones explained that the area would be mowed at least once or twice per year until the trees mature and begin to provide sufficient shade. The Bucks County Conservation District contributed to the design of the planting layout.
- The EAC members discussed budget requests for the upcoming year. Proposed items included Bird Town signs, protective cages, trees and caging for the Coleman property, Bird Town grant opportunities, rain barrel workshops, educational workshops, interpretive signage, and speaker fees.
- A. Mullin asked for the EAC members to submit budget requests by the end of August.
- L. Jones made a motion to provide Divine Earth Gardens with a \$200 speaker fee. K. Davis seconded the motion. The EAC unanimously approved the motion.
- The EAC members discussed the need to obtain Divine Earth Gardens' business EIN for payment processing.



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- K. Davis proposed purchasing reusable bags featuring the EAC logo as a plastic reduction initiative. Members discussed whether the cost of the bags would be justified as a giveaway. The members also discussed including food for volunteers under the miscellaneous supplies budget line.
- A. Mullin received a Tree Tenders brochure from K. Davis as an example of educational material that could be made available in the lobby of the Township Building. The brochure was published by the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society and provides information about the Tree Tenders program, which offers community-based education and volunteer opportunities focused on tree planting, care, and stewardship.
- C. Jones provided an update regarding potential adjustments to the Township's Data Centers Ordinance. The update was based on the most recent Board of Supervisors meeting and included discussion of the curative amendment and the proactive measures being considered by the Board to protect the Township from the impacts of data centers to the extent possible.
- Adjournment – A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by C. Weston-Young, seconded by K. Davis at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Davis, Chair

*The next meeting of the Environmental Advisory Council of New Britain Township will take place on **Wednesday, September 2nd, 7:00 pm** at the New Britain Township Building, 207 Park Avenue, Chalfont, Pa. Agenda is posted to the Township website prior to the meeting date at www.newbritaintownship.org.*