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 – October 7, 2026

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

Regrets: G. Reuter, A. Mullin

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

Discussion:

- Approval of Minutes – M. Briggs moved, and L. Jones seconded a motion to approve the September 2, 2026 minutes. The EAC unanimously approved the motion.

- Fall Festival Report - A discussion ensued regarding the success of the Fall Festival EAC booth (combined with the Bird Town area). It is estimated 215 people were spoken with at the booth. The pollinator garden also had high visitor attendance. EAC members demonstrated an EnviroScape table and macroinvertebrate sand table, while Bird Town members provided handouts and scannable Dark Sky compliance information, which is especially beneficial during bird migration periods. Free seed packets were also provided to the public. The location of the EAC/ Bird Town booth, as well as ideas for location improvement in 2027, were discussed.

- Bird Town committee report -
    - M. Briggs announced that the 2027 Bird Town Committee leader will be Carol Weston-Young. The last meeting of 2026 (10/7, at 6 pm) included attendance by M. Briggs, C. Weston-Young, M. Reim, M. Barba, and S. Benz.
    - M. Briggs noted registration of 5 new properties in the Bird Habitat Recognition program would help the committee achieve Silver Bird Town PA level in 2027 (Note: the committee must also complete at least 10 actions in 3 of 4 Bird Town PA action categories).
        - The Bird Habitat Recognition program can be found at: https://paaudubon council.org/bird-habitat-recognition-program/
    - The next Bird Town meeting date will be determined by C. Weston-Young. Note: as meetings have been moved to a quarterly schedule, the next meeting will occur in 1Q2027. Due to previous attendance being during dinner hours, it was suggested that

quarterly meetings be held on a different day than EAC meetings. C. Jones (EAC liaison) will discuss with N. Valla, Township Manager.
  - Another suggestion for NBT Bird Town was to consider working with Chalfont Borough and New Britain Borough Bird Towns on projects and events, given that residents from all 3 municipalities would likely be attending events, thus overlapping date availability.

- Update on Grants -
  - C. Weston-Young discussed the Bird Town Grant on the Coleman property, accessible via the greenway trail, mirroring work at the Wilma Quinlan area. The proposed plans include a woodchip path leading to a 10x20 ft opening for birders, surrounded by a 20 ft ground cover area. The application was submitted, and approval was pending.
    - The planting list remains open for future expansion under the $1,000 grant.
    - M. Briggs suggested should future grants be submitted for the Coleman area, consideration be given to building a bird blind, and perhaps a scout or scout pack would be interested in supporting a bird blind project. She also suggested the bird blind at West Branch Park be checked for repair/maintenance needs.
    - Post-meeting note: the grant was approved on October 8, 2026.
  - The large grant for trees near North Branch Park will be resubmitted.
  - There will be a tree planting at the Coleman Property on October 8, 2026. Volunteers are encouraged to attend morning or afternoon sessions.

- Plans for the remainder of 2026-27 — Possible activities with the public:
  - A discussion with EAC and community members ensued to partner with local stores (i.e., Ace Hardware, Wehrungs, Tractor Supply). The following ideas came forward:
    - Safety programs for children (such as how to properly carry tools) suggested by A. Edling.
    - Building birdhouses, owl nesting boxes, bat boxes
    - Window sill planting
    - Making bird food, such as homemade bird suet and peanut butter pine cone treats
    - Use of mosquito dunks (and potential for obtaining empty buckets discarded by local bakeries)
    - Milk jug winter sowing (EAC to provide seeds, local store to provide compost/soil/duct tape, participant to bring empty plastic gallon milk jug)
    - M. Bronsell noted a brush pile project was completed by Pack 133 at Wilma Quinlan Nature Preserve (the pack meets at Lenape Valley Church) and perhaps that could be done again.
  - Suggestion made to have a movie night with a film available from Homegrown National Park, through January 2027: https://homegrownnationalpark.org/community-activities/?utm_source=Start+a+new+HABITAT&utm_campaign=71860d34b9-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2023_11_06_03_46_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_-

f7088a1207-1410790642&mc_cid=71860d34b9&mc_eid=6043406665); "The Extraordinary Caterpillar"

- Other Suggestions from Homegrown Park are available on the website, such as a garden tour. Community members are encouraged to review the website.
- A rain barrel workshop will be held in the spring.
- Participation in A-Day is unlikely due to the 3-day duration of the event and volunteer availability.
- Feature "Garden of the Month" on the EAC website.
- Build a "Free Little Seed Library" for one of our parks (similar to Little Free Library for books).
- Have a "Find the macroinvertebrates" program at West Branch Park for children.
- Hold a "paint the storage shed" mural activity with children. The activity should be planned, designed, and monitored. It was noted the storage shed may have repair work done, and it would be best to wait until it is complete prior to any painting activity. It was also noted, the rain barrel will need to be disconnected before winter.

- Walnut Street development update - provided by C. Jones, EAC liaison. She noted three separate issues impacting this development:
  - The developer is pursuing litigation through the Common Pleas Court regarding the Zoning Hearing Board (ZHB) decision to deny the height variance (35 ft).
  - The developer is challenging the validity of NBT zoning, and their portion of the challenge was presented at the September ZHB hearing. The developer was unable to continue at October's ZHB meeting; therefore, the hearing will continue during the November ZHB meeting (November 19).
  - The developer continues to revise their Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance plans.

A resident, C. Greway, noted community concerns the developer was planning a data center. C. Jones noted there are no plans for a data center in NBT.

C. Jones also noted, the township has begun the curative amendment process for our zoning ordinances. This allows the township time to draft and review an ordinance related to data center use. The role of C. Kennard (Gilmore and Associates, Inc.) in assisting with the draft of the ordinance was also clarified by C. Jones. Mr. Kennard and his associates work on behalf of the township, on the municipal side of the Gilmore and Associates business.

In general discussion, it was noted the NBT Planning Commission will be reviewing the draft during its October 13th meeting. Then the EAC will also have an opportunity to review the draft at its next meeting (November 4). Areas of concern could include but are not limited to: impervious coverage as well as impact to the environment, including flora and fauna, floodplain, and noise levels.

C. Greway noted an impact on traffic as well as oil/ diesel at the Keystone Trade Center in Fairless Hills. He directed the EAC to the Fairless Hills website for links related to data centers. Mr. Greway also offered his contact information and any assistance he could provide, to the EAC and township.

- Public comment on non-agenda items
  L. Jones spoke about a request to provide rain barrel information for a project on Bristol Rd. in Chalfont Borough. Andrea from Divine Earth Gardens is hosting a "Community Planting Day" to install a micro forest on a residential property. Kathleen will follow up with Andrea.

- Adjournment – A motion to adjourn was made by L. Jones, seconded by C. Weston-Young, and approved unanimously by all in favor at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Davis, Chair

The next meeting of the Environmental Advisory Council of New Britain Township will take place on ***Wednesday, November 4, 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.*