



New Britain Township

Environmental Advisory Council

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| Kathleen Davis, Chair | John Granger, NBT Manager |
| Brooke Newborn, Vice-Chair | MaryBeth McCabe, NBT Supervisor |
| Mary Margaret Briggs, Secretary | |
| Kathleen Dutill, Member | |
| Jaime Walker, Member | |

Minutes – February 13, 2024

Attended: K. Davis, B. Newborn, M. Briggs, K. Dutill, J. Walker, J. Granger, M. McCabe

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

Discussion:

1. Welcome & Introductions
K. Davis welcomed all to the first New Britain Township (NBT) Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) meeting. Members provided a brief introduction of themselves, and their interest in volunteering for the EAC.
2. Organization of Council – election of Vice-Chair and Secretary. The Chair, K. Davis, noted the importance of organizing the council and appointing Vice-Chair and a Secretary.
 - A. Upon motion by M. Briggs, seconded by J. Walker, the council unanimously approved the appointment of B. Newborn as Vice-Chair.
 - B. Upon motion by K. Davis, seconded by B. Newborn, the council unanimously approved the appointment of M. Briggs as Secretary.
3. Meeting Schedule – Fourth Thursday of each month.
The currently scheduled November 28 and December 26 meetings fall on or immediately after holidays. The council was asked to consider the alternative date of Thursday, Dec. 5, to potentially cover both meetings.
Action: Dec 5 date will be considered by members and if agreeable, will forward to NBT Board of Supervisors (BOS) for consideration. J. Granger suggested the members consider which monthly day of the week would work best for the council in 2025.

4. Overview of EACs

The Chair provided an overview of EACs and noted the council's role in keeping records of meetings and providing an annual report to the NBT Board of Supervisors (BOS). EAC members shared their perspectives of important priorities for the NBT EAC, including preservation and protection of township open space, offering educational information to residents, providing advice to the BOS on subdivision and land development (SALDO) and zoning ordinances.



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The Chair noted the primary role of the EAC is to provide advice to the BOS. It is the BOS role to set policy. Among its other roles, the council is responsible for keeping an index of the township's open space and environmentally sensitive areas, such as flood plains. Research of council topics of concern, planning and implementation of "on the ground" projects, grant writing, and community education are examples of other roles the EAC will aim to fulfill. It was noted the NBT Comprehensive Plan, Open Space Plan, SALDO, and Zoning ordinances are available on the township website.

5. The Chair arranged for each member to have conversations with other neighboring community EAC members to gain their insights to the operation and role of their EACs. EAC members will conduct these interviews.

Members of the public (C. Weston-Young, K. Jones) also provided comments re: EAC initiatives.

6. Memos to Board of Supervisors

- A. The council discussed whether the Board of Supervisors should be advised to pursue a grant supported opportunity for a targeted NBT ordinance and policy review conducted by the Pennsylvania Environmental Council (PEC). Under the application, the PEC will conduct an audit of land use and development codes, ordinances and policies. The PEC generates a report card illustrating existing barriers to Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) and provisions that encourage or incentivize use of GSI practices. The township is under no obligation to implement PEC recommendations.

Upon motion by K. Davis, seconded by B. Newborn, the council unanimously approved the recommendation for the BOS to engage the PEC regarding this opportunity.

- B. The council discussed whether the EAC should recommend support of the Neshaminy Watershed Consortium proposal, presented to the BOS at its February 5, 2024 meeting. It was noted four EAC members attended the presentation.

Upon motion by K. Davis, seconded by M. Briggs, the council unanimously approved the recommendation for the BOS to support the Neshaminy Watershed Consortium proposal.

7. Zoning and SALDO Amendments – One of the roles of the EAC will be to review and provide advice to the BOS on zoning and SALDO ordinance amendments. The first of three sets of SALDO and Zoning ordinance amendments (presented to the BOS on Dec. 4, 2023) was distributed to the members prior to the Feb 13, 2024 EAC meeting. Distribution of the second SALDO and Zoning amendments is pending. Members were asked to review both amendments; a timeline for review will be noted at a future meeting.



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8. Other business

- A. Development Opportunities for EAC Members were outlined by the Chair. EAC members were encouraged to attend.
 - a. Overview of reading site plans and design drawings offered by Bucks County Conservancy District Environmental Protection Specialist (overview of land development plans by Karen Ogden)
 - b. EAC Virtual conference conducted by EAC Network – Feb. 24, 2024 (virtual meeting)
 - c. Pennsylvania Municipal Planning Education Institute (PMPEI)
- B. NBT Committee Meetings – The Chair noted the council should discuss and arrange for one of more members to attend the NBT Planning, Parks and Recreation, and Veterans Committee meetings, as appropriate.
- C. By-laws – The Chair will send the council information on sample By-laws suggested by the EAC network.

9. Public comment

K. Jones stated his support of the EAC and the EAC's important role as an advocate for the environment. He suggested to be most effective, the EAC should consider its short- and medium-term focus to be on setting up infrastructure, then move onto development of projects in the long-term. He suggested the EAC consider constraints (e.g. private property rights. Laws of the Commonwealth) as well as incentives (e.g. grant funding). Finally, he encouraged the EAC to build partnerships at the local, county, state, and federal levels, as well as with non-profit organizations.

M. McCabe (supervisor) noted she had been working within the BOS for four years, to form an EAC and she was encouraged to see the council begin its work.

10. Adjournment

A motion was made by M. Briggs to adjourn the meeting, seconded by J. Walker. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathleen Davis, Chair

*The Next Meeting of the Environmental Advisory Council of New Britain Township will take place on **Thursday, February 22, 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.*