



New Britain Township

Environmental Advisory Council

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| Kathleen Davis, Chair | David Conroy, NBT Zoning Director |
| Mary Margaret Briggs, Secretary | MaryBeth McCabe, NBT Supervisor |
| Kathleen Dutil, Member | |
| Jaime Walker, Member | |
| Carol Weston-Young, Member | |

Minutes – October 2, 2024

Attended: K. Davis, M. Briggs, K. Dutil, C. Weston-Young, D. Conroy, M. McCabe

Regrets: J. Walker

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

Discussion:

- Approval of Minutes – M. Briggs motioned and C. Weston-Young seconded a motion to approve the September 4, 2024 minutes. The EAC unanimously approved the minutes.
- Report on Fall Festival – The EAC booth at the township’s fall festival featured EnviroScape and sand table displays which children enjoyed playing with, a Dark Sky lighting display, and offered handouts on native (and non-native invasive) plants. Thank you, G. Reuter, for the beautiful EAC poster! And thank you to all the volunteers who helped us!
- Ordinance review update provided by K. Davis. M. McCabe noted the township engineer found PEC recommendations acceptable.
- Ideas for next EAC projects
 - Logo – next steps for banner for EAC events.
 - For a booth environment, M. McCabe noted a banner that could be attached to a tablecloth with Velcro connections (with the EAC logo printed on the front), may work best for EAC displays, as hanging the banner from the tent top could obstruct views into the booth.
 - M. Briggs noted a simpler logo might work best for the EAC, for both the banner and for fundraising items (E.g. license plate or T-shirts). She noted a local township (Solebury) was selling license plate with their EAC logo, to raise funds (post meeting note – license plate sold for \$25). Their logo was simple and boosted the visibility of the township within Bucks County (has both township and county name on it).



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- Potential EAC events:
 - Tables during Easter Egg hunt (date TBD)
 - Earth Day (April 22) and/or Arbor Day (April 25)
 - April 26 – community clean-up or tree plantings. Amanda Gerace noted tree planting are fun events for families.
 - Partner with other organizations? (E.g. Chalfont Birdtown)
 - Rain Barrel workshop event in coordination with Neshaminy Watershed Association (NWA).
 - Potential date conflicts noted with April dates were discussed. E.g., holidays (Passover April 13, Easter Sunday April 20) and A-day (Del Val University, April 25-27).
 - EAC considered moving an EAC event into early May (3rd or 4th) might be best, for better attendance.
 - The EAC can also look into setting up a display at A-Day. It was suggested the EAC could use these events to publicize sign-up sheets for tree planting and community cleanup events.
 - It was suggested the EAC consider branching out with display tables at other local Bucks Co. events (E.g. Picnics on Pine in Doylestown). It was also suggested the EAC publicize its events in a local newspaper (E.g. Bucks Co. Herald).
 - Plant a demo pollinator garden in North Branch Park. EAC members will meet in the daytime to identify potential site (~ 5-6 pm). Include children in planting event.
 - Plant swap or sale
 - Giveaways – seed packets, pencils

- Brainstorming & fundraising:
 - K. Davis discussed open space funds and the need to ID potential property owners in the township who would conserve their properties.
 - K. Davis also noted, the use of funds could potentially be used as matches in grant applications (could triple the impact of the fund use). M. McCabe said she will ask the solicitor if this use is possible.
 - Also discussed if open space funds could be used to print ID signs for properties already conserved by the township.
 - K. Davis suggested the EAC could also begin conversations with local homeowner associations (HOA) regarding best practices for management of their open spaces and resolution of any issues with conservation easements. K. Davis noted a recent issue with a local HOA (Mill Ridge) conservation easement which states the private homeowner cannot alter the property. Residents of Mill Ridge wish to plant native trees on their conservation easement. With help from Bucks County Conservation District, they are asking their HOA and the township for approval.
 - Open space survey results expected next week (mid-October).



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- K. Jones (President, NWA) discussed that township is one of the six pilot communities working in partnership with the NWA. Ken noted townships with a list of possible restoration projects that are “shovel ready” could be quickly added to grant applications. Mr. Jones suggested the NBT EAC could identify potential township owned open spaces (with basins) that would be good locations for restoration projects. A map of township owned open space is being developed by the township engineer. M. Briggs noted one of our township properties by Pine Run creek has already been mapped out (E.g. Giant grant we were not awarded). M. Briggs will provide a list of township owned open spaces with (approximate) addresses for the EAC to prioritize at a future meeting.
- Publicity
 - M. McCabe noted articles were needed for the winter edition of township newsletter (per D. Conroy, printer deadline noted by S. Gelb to be on Oct. 4, however M. McCabe will try to get the EAC a couple more days to write articles). D. Conway suggested an article regarding stormwater management was likely forthcoming from the township engineer. M. Briggs volunteered to compose DarkSky lighting blurb. K. Davis and C. Weston-Young agreed to write an article on the importance of pollinator plants.
- Informational items
 - Coleman property tree planting event – volunteers needed! Saturday, Nov. 16 (9-11:30 am) and Sunday, Nov. 17 (1:30-4:30 pm).
- Adjournment – A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by C. Weston-Young, seconded by K. Dutil. Meeting was adjourned at 8:09 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathleen Davis, Chair

*The next meeting of the Environmental Advisory Council of New Britain Township will take place on **Wednesday, November 6, 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.*