

**EAST BRADFORD TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
February 27, 2023**

The East Bradford Township Environmental Advisory Council convened on Monday, February 23, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. in the township building, 676 Copeland School Road, West Chester, PA 19380. The agenda was posted on the front door of the township building and on the Township website at <https://www.eastbradford.org> as required by the Sunshine Law.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Brooke Davis
Kathy Bergmann
Paul Lewis
Paul Lucot
Ed McConnell
Maura Sheehan

STAFF/ BOARD PRESENT: Mark Lucas and Bruce Laverty

MEMBERS/STAFF NOT PRESENT: Rhona Klein

RESIDENTS PRESENT: George Seeds

CALL TO ORDER: At 7:01 pm, the EAC meeting was called to order by Brooke Davis.

George Seeds was welcomed to the meeting and asked if he had any specific questions not on the meeting agenda. George was attending the meeting out of interest and offered to share data from his work with Stroud on chloride levels in Black Horse Run and Taylor Run.

MINUTES

Maura Sheehan made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 23, 2023, regular meeting. Kathy Bergmann seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

SINGLE USE PLASTICS

The EAC discussed the proposed Plastic Bag Ordinance addressing some of the concerns/comments of the Board and Staff. Single-use plastic straw bans could be an issue for patrons with a disability. Rather than ban single-use plastic straws, commercial establishments shall only provide them if specifically requested by the customer.

The EAC also reviewed the reasons for charging customers for compliant bags. Other areas that have implemented plastic bag bans, do not get changes in customer behaviors unless a fee is charged for the compliant bags. Our purpose is to get consumers to switch to reusable bags. Enforcement of the ordinance has been a concern of the Board and Staff. Developing a reporting mechanism on our website where violations could be reported, should assist with enforcement. If a pattern of violations is noted by the staff, a letter could then be sent to the business.

Maura recommended that the Township uses the Penn Environment webpage on Single Use Plastic Laws in PA. This website includes model ordinances, samples of letters and signs for businesses and other useful information.

Maura will edit the ordinance with our changes and submit it to Mandie for the Board to review and move forward with the ordinance.

Maura shared an interesting fact that Glad is being sued for claiming their plastic bags are recyclable.

DEVELOPMENT REVIEWS AND UPDATES

SD# 632- Darlington Ridge- sold out and will dedicate the pump station in the Spring.

SD# 641- West Chester Crossings- Construction and sales continue. Fiber optic line still needs to be moved.

ENERGY

Ed McConnell has been working on a newsletter article on the IRA (Inflation Reduction Act) and homeowner energy savings. He found a very detailed graphic which shows the rebates/tax credits for various energy savings projects and

electrification steps for the home. Ed will work to change the potential savings for a two person home with a median income for East Bradford. Ed will also check on whether we can share or publish the graphic. Ed will continue to work on the article for the next newsletter.

Community Engagement- The energy group is planning a possible April 15th sustainability event sponsored by East and West Goshen Townships. The event will be held on April 15, 2023, from 1-5 pm at East Goshen Community Park. The event will include environmentally and sustainability focused vendors and will include fun for the entire family. As the event gets closer, we will recommend posting on our website.

CLIMATE CHANGE

For the past several months the EAC has researched and discussed climate resilience. Maura Sheehan found an extensive toolkit with websites and programs that can help the Township and its residents become climate resilient. The EAC and Maura have identified target groups and priorities for the various tools and websites. The first priorities will be for tools/websites dealing with ordinance development for the staff/committees and information dealing with heat stroke and Lyme disease for staff and park users. Over the next few months, we will identify more websites/tools and forward the information to the specific groups/committees. Our goal is for everyone to become more climate resilient and learn how to deal with the new climate norm.

Mark Lucas attended a training recently on the new BMP (Best Management Practices) manual for stormwater. The new manual is now dealing with climate change and changing stormwater calculations to account for increased rainfall.

COMPREHENSIVE ZONING ORDINANCE REVIEW

In January the PC (Planning Commission) discussed R-3 and R-4 zoning. The PC discussed allowing 2 family dwellings in the R-4 zone. There was a concern that some lots would be redeveloped with 2 family dwellings in an area of mostly single-family homes. The PC and county advisors looked at all possible lots in R-4 that could be developed. The County Planning advisors stated that federal law requires that group homes be allowed in all zoning districts. In February, the Ordinance Review will discuss the business district zoning.

Mark Lucas and the EAC will be more involved with the ordinance review when dealing with resource protection and land development ordinances.

INVASIVE SPECIES & VECTORS

Deer Management: the deer harvest this season was 42 deer. Mark Lucas is hoping to increase the kill up to 70 deer by making incremental changes in the hunting program over the next few seasons.

Spotted Lanternfly- Paul Lucot has discussed with the new Property Steward the possibility of removing the Tree of Heaven(host tree of SLF) and other invasives from Shaw's Bridge Park.

REVIEW OF ABC MINUTES

- Board of Supervisor- Maura Sheehan
- Planning Commission- Paul Lewis
- Trails- Rhona Klein
- Historical Commission- Brooke Davis
- Parks and Rec- Paul Lucot
- Traffic Commission- Kathy Bergmann

ROUNDTABLE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Paul Lucot mentioned that Tree Vitalize now includes funding for meadow creation with a 10% match. Paul would like to see invasives removed and meadows planted in Shaw's Bridge Park.

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE EAC: There will be no work session and the next regular meeting will be March 27, 2023.

ADJOURNMENT: Maura made a motion to adjourn, and Paul Lucot seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brooke Davis