

**Towamencin Township  
Environmental Advisory Council  
Minutes of the June 13, 2023 Meeting**

**Present:** Brett MacKay  
Joseph (Joe) Meehan  
Joyce Snyder, Board of Supervisors Liaison  
Rory Kelley  
Vanessa Gaynor

**Absent:** Amy Mawby  
Donna Hegge

**Guest:** Kelly Bonsignore

**1. Call to order:**

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM.

**2. Opening Comments**

Rory Kelley stated that he is looking forward to the work the EAC can do in the second half of the year.

**3. May 9, 2023 Meeting Minutes**

Joe Meehan made a motion to approve the meeting minutes, Vanessa Gaynor seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**4. Old Business**

- a. Clean energy resolution: All members present indicated they had the opportunity to review & did not have any questions about the emails David Kraynik, Township Manager, had forwarded to the EAC from Township staff in regards to the Resolution. Considering feedback received from Township staff and Board of Supervisors, Rory Kelley motioned to suspend work on the Clean Energy Resolution. Brett MacKay seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The group discussed how the EAC can pivot to community education and work towards attainable short-term projects for energy efficiency.
- b. CY 2023 Budget: The budget tracking sheet was reviewed for awareness.
- c. Towamencin Day brief recap: Amy Mawby ran the EAC booth at Towamencin Day successfully. We will discuss more in depth at the next meeting Amy is present at, but her suggestion to have a more defined purpose for being at Towamencin Day was echoed by those in attendance. Another suggestion is to involve volunteers aside from voting EAC members.

**5. Upcoming Events**

- a. Sat, Jun 24, 9AM - 12PM: Electronics recycling Event: The Township has asked for assistance in advertising this event, especially since there is a new

requirement this year that participants must pre-register. Rory Kelley stated he can post on multiple Facebook groups, and would ask Collen Ehrle, Township Administration, to post again on Township Facebook page. Discussion occurred that only Towamencin Township residents are eligible to participate, and messaging surrounding that new requirement could be clearer. Suggestions included adding the word 'only' (as in- the event is for Towamencin Township residents ONLY), or perhaps next year indicating that proof of residence is required to deter non-residents from signing up.

## **6. New Business**

- a. PECO Energy Audits: Rory Kelley received preliminary information from PECO about Energy Audit programs that they have run for other townships. Energy Audits are provided by PECO to make suggestions to homeowners about increasing energy efficiency, and they usually include some energy efficient giveaways (such as LED light bulbs). PECO typically charges \$49 for individuals, but the email Rory received was unclear as to whether PECO would waive fees for Township residents if they participated in a Township sponsored program. Joe Meehan was curious what specifically is done during an Energy Audit (check leaks/insulation/etc? Is it worth \$50?). PECO also indicated they could host a workshop to share information with residents. Rory indicated he will follow up with PECO for more information and to determine if we would like to invite them to an upcoming meeting to discuss further (they are not available for the July meeting). Rory will also follow up with Upper Gwynedd EAC to see if they have had success with this program in the past.
- b. EAC Committees: Rory Kelley suggested that the EAC could form sub-committees / collaborations with outside groups:
  - i. ENACT (North Penn High School environmental organization): Towamencin and Upper Gwynedd EACs have had contact with the group before, and we could re-engage them at the start of the school year by possibly attending a meeting to see how the groups could help each other.
  - ii. SKF (Towamencin business): Rory Kelley has been in touch with Levi, their sustainability manager, who is interested in being involved in Towamencin sustainability initiatives. Future initiatives could include touring their energy efficient building (Brett MacKay and Joe Meehan have done this in the past and found it informative) or partnering with the Township on a conservation initiative (they had reached out about this around Earth Day but there wasn't enough lead time to put something together).
  - iii. Neighboring EACs: Perhaps Upper Gwynedd could visit one of our meetings to discuss opportunities.
- c. EAC Fall Gathering - October 21st West Chester University: This is sponsored by [weconservepa.org](http://weconservepa.org). Rory Kelley had attended a virtual gathering in February, and suggested the in-person event could be a good networking opportunity to find similar EACs to connect with. Rory suggested everyone review the information from the virtual conference and their website as resources for future EAC

initiatives. Rory to check on the Township's membership status with the organization.

- d. 2023 Planning: EAC will discuss in depth at the July meeting plans for the remainder of the year. Members should come with ideas focused on this year's goals (renewable energy & sustainability). Rory Kelley showed ENACT's presentation to the North Penn School District Board regarding the high school renovation project.
- e. Fall newsletter: Members should think about topics to put in the Township fall newsletter. Submission deadline is mid-August. Perhaps explaining what the EAC is would be a good topic.

## **7. Additional Business**

- a. Vanessa Gaynor suggested the group discuss what long term goals of EAC are at the next meeting, as this would help inform what plans to make going forward. Perhaps EAC keeps some renewable energy items as part of 2023 plan but picks up others that better fit the long term strategy of the EAC. Some ideas the group suggested possibly discussing next month could be expanding 'no mow zones', helping monitor detention basins, or speaking with David Kraynik to organize an inventory of sustainable projects already in place within the Township.
- b. Rory Kelley indicated there are currently 4 applications before the Board of Supervisors for the EAC vacancy (including one from guest Kelly Bonsignore), and a vote is expected during the June 28, 2023 meeting. Vanessa Gaynor asked if there is specific criteria or process when selecting among multiple candidates, and Joyce Snyder indicated there is nothing formalized, but discussion of candidates by Board of Supervisors members must occur in the public forum to comply with Sunshine Law. Rory stated that he had sent the Board of Supervisors an email with recommendations on which skill sets would be valuable to the EAC.

## **8. Adjournment**

Rory Kelley motioned to end the meeting. Brett MacKay seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

The next EAC meeting will be held on July 11, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

Vanessa Gaynor  
EAC Committee