

**Towamencin Township
Environmental Advisory Council
Minutes of the June 11, 2024 Meeting**

Present: Rory Kelley, Brett MacKay, Joseph (Joe) Meehan, Donna Hegge, Vanessa Gaynor, David McCreary, Kelly Bonsignore

Colleen Ehrle- Director of Administration
Bruce Bailey and Patrick Kolis - Guests, Towamencin residents

Absent: Rich Costlow- Associate Member
Joyce Snyder - Board of Supervisors Liaison

1. Call to order: 7:05pm
2. Opening comments: Review of meeting minutes. Approved as amended.
3. Public Comments:
 - Patrick opened a discussion regarding yard waste recycling:
 - a. Patrick proposed the Township start a yard waste recycling program , perhaps similar to the model from Bethlehem Township Public Works. Determination of location, start-up costs (especially a new tub grinder), and staffing would need to be determined if the township would to develop this type of operation.
 - b. Hatfield Township has a drop-off and mulch pick up- could there be a way to collaborate or learn from them? Worcester has a yard waste program that Towamencin could model.
 - c. Trash pick up should let residents know when yard waste will be picked up. Compliance would be doing special yard waste pickup twice a year. According to the Northern Montgomery County Recycling Commission, enforcing compliance is difficult for all area municipalities. Single hauler for Towamencin was also discussed.
 - d. Next steps: Perhaps Towamencin could offer yard waste recycling once or twice a year. Consider small branches only that could go through a wood chipper. Inquire of Worcester the equipment they use to determine if Towamencin has comparable equipment available. EAC can start promoting Barnside Mulch and Compost's discounted yard waste dropoff, and ask them to track how often Towamencin residents take advantage of their services.
4. Old Business:Project update 2024

- a. No Mow - Vanessa and Brett said we have a map removing or maintaining these areas. Naturalized plan would include native plants and remove the invasive plants. Getting rid of current invasive species and maintaining native species are the issues. MS4 grant eligible? Need to talk to Mary Stover at CKS and David Hillmantel.
- b. Kibbler Meadows /Bradford Pears : Kibbler Meadows is part of the 2016 no mow conversion, so will be included in discussions regarding no mow.
- c. Morgan Log House - pollinator garden could be mowed late spring instead of in the fall to support wildlife throughout winter. Need to visit, talk to Molly, and see what can be put in to prevent the invasive plants from growing.
- d. Citizen Corp for Invasive removal - formal presentation would be necessary for the board of supervisors and public works.
- e. Morgan Log House Pollinator Garden – Rory will contact the new director Molly to discuss the EAC helping to refresh the garden.

5. New Business:

- a. Annual State EAC Fall Gathering – Temple Ambler is a feasible location, in October. Towamencin EAC was not included on the official proposal to WeConserve, but we can still help and support.
- b. Dark Skies - altered lighting in the township to benefit health and harm to the pollinators. Color temperature, total lumens, guided, circadian are issues regarding lighting. Private outreach could include Township newsletter on how to change more to dark skies .Commercial lighting considerations include direction of light focus to 90 degrees & limit of color temp to a warm white.Possible consideration of amending commercial requirements for motion activated security lights.
Next steps: Brett will contact Mary and request an update on the lighting ordinances for review. Dave will write an article for the newsletter.
- c. Raingarden- Jessie Kemper from PWC, Joe and Dave met to discuss the Rain Garden. It's too dry. Weeds need to be kept under control. Weeds could be weed-wacked and perennials could still grow well. Would rate the garden 8 out of 10 due to good perennials. Possibly get volunteers every two weeks or so. Dave Hilmantle and Nate Pfister from Publics Works don't need to take responsibility for small detailed work but could support larger maintenance tasks (such as removing turf grass from inlet). We need a sign to inform the people of the purpose of the garden. Native seeds could be introduced, such as 'false blue indigo'. Info will be shared with Public Works to care for

the garden.

6. Township Updates: Skippack alliance obtaining state rep grant support letters for Grist Mill water retention basin project. Electronics Recycling was Saturday. Supporting rain barrel workshop.
7. Budget: no update
8. Upcoming Events:
 - a. Rain Barrel Workshop- June 20th- the next step is to develop an advertisement.
9. Other Business:
 - a. Flag will be available at Rain Barrel event
10. Adjournment: 9:15 pm. Vanessa motioned to adjourn, Dave seconded.

Respectfully submitted by Kelly Bonsignore, Secretary