

**Towamencin Township  
Environmental Advisory Council  
Minutes of the January 14, 2025 Meeting**

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

Joyce Snyder – Township Supervisor

Colleen Ehrle – Township Director of Administration

Bruce Bailey - Guests, Towamencin residents

**Absent:** Brett MacKay, Richard (Rich) Costlow, Michael (Mike) Bush

1. Call to order: 7:10 pm
2. Opening comments: None.
3. Election of Officers: Chair – Rory, Vice Chair – Donna, Secretary – Kelly, Treasurer - David
4. Public Comments: None.
5. Minute Approval: Joe made a motion to approve the December Minutes as revised and Vanessa seconded the motion. Motion approved.
6. Old Business:
  - a. 2024 Project Updates
    - i. Birdtown PA – The committee will have a virtual meeting on 1/22/25 at 7 pm. The committee is working on the application and a presentation for the Board of Supervisors (BOS) meeting on 2/25/25. Send the presentation to Colleen the Friday before the BOS meeting.
    - ii. No Mow - EAC members met with Public Works. Public Works is supportive of maintaining an improved No Mow area at the Township Building. Public Works will not use their pesticide application certification to apply herbicide to thistle. The EAC will need to hire someone to apply herbicide. A brush hog is the correct equipment to mow the No Mow area once a year. Township does not own one; capital request would need to be submitted to purchase one. Jenkins Arboretum is a good example of a native landscape. Steps for Township Building No Mow Area: 1) Determine ecosystem desired. 2) Obtain Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy (PWC) recommendations. 3) Develop construction plan. 4) Eliminate invasives in autumn 2025. 5) Implement planting plan.

- iii. Morgan Log House (MLH) Demonstration Pollinator Garden - EAC members met with Molly from MLH in December and discussed having Public Works spray herbicide and turn over the area of the pollinator garden, then plant seeds and plant plugs. Also discussed moving the beehive to the kitchen garden. MLH volunteers will maintain the pollinator garden. Molly can help find grants to fund this project. Journeyworks more interested in doing project in grassy area adjacent to the stream, they will decide if they want to collaborate on pollinator garden project. EAC members to meet with MLH and Journeyworks on 1/17/25 at 10 am.
  - iv. Towamencin Comprehensive Plan - Draft plan to be issued soon. EAC to review and comment on EAC related sections. Comment period ends 3/12. EAC members should review the draft plan and be ready to discuss at the February EAC meeting.
  - v. Towamencin Day (5/10/25) - Rory has started inviting environmental groups.
  - vi. Invasive Species Removal - Resident volunteers to be led by David on 4/19/25 from 10 am - 2 pm. David has supplies. Short education session followed by hands-on removal.
  - vii. MS4 Workshops - PWC Stormwater Management Workshop, possible Master Gardener Bluebird House workshop for children, possible tree planting workshop by Tree Tenders group, possible lawn conversion workshop by Journeyworks.
  - viii. Project Plan – Rory has a document outlining 2025 plans
  - ix. PWC Municipal Grant – Donna to invite CKS Engineers to February meeting to discuss No Mow and possible PWC Municipal Grant projects.
- b. Budget Discussion – 2025 budget is \$4,100.
  - c. 2024 Report - Rory developing the report to submit to Board of Supervisors, as recommended in WeConserve EAC Handbook

#### 7. New Business:

- a. Spring Newsletter Topics - David will prepare articles on fabric recycling and dark skies. Rory to prepare an article on upcoming EAC activities. An article on proper disposal of yard waste will be prepared for the fall newsletter.
- b. Public Works Meeting Recap - Public Works would appreciate the EAC's help to educate residents on yard waste disposal. Public Works is interested in providing Tree Tenders and other training to its staff.

#### 8. Township Updates (Informational):

- a. Old Forty Foot Road Townhouse Development - Joyce informed the EAC that the old Bird Farm is to be developed into townhouses.

9. Upcoming Events:

- a. Newsletter Deadline - 2/14/25
- b. Invasive Species Removal - 4/19/25
- c. PWC Stream Clean-up - 4/12/25
- d. Towamencin Day – 5/10/2025

10. Any Other Business and Closing: No other business.

11. Adjournment: At 9:20 pm

12. Next Meeting: 2/11/25 at 7:00 pm

Respectfully submitted by Donna Hegge, Vice Chairperson