

**Towamencin Township
Environmental Advisory Council
Minutes of the February 11, 2025 Meeting**

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

Joyce Snyder – Township Supervisor

David Kraynik – Township Manager

Bruce Bailey - Guests, Towamencin residents

Mary Stover- Township Civil Engineer

1. Call to order: 7:04 pm
2. Opening comments: None.
3. Public Comments: None.
4. Minute Approval: Joe made a motion to approve the January Minutes as revised and Vanessa seconded the motion. Brett abstained. Motion approved.
5. Old Business:
 - a. 2024 Project Updates
 - i. Birdtown PA – This week the resolution will be sent to Colleen and Dave for approval at the February 25 Board of Supervisors meeting. Three dates will be booked for public Birdtown meetings. The dates are April 10th, June 12th, September 11, 2025.
 - ii. No Mow - The process for the front of the township building will include low-mowing, herbicide application to kill invasive canada thistle, then placement of mulch. Timing is to eliminate invasives in autumn 2025. Determine cost this year, including overseeding, plugs, and trees. Obtain 2 or 3 quotes from landscapers to place herbicide, chip drop and spread. Current 2025 budget for all EAC projects is \$4,100. Some options for trees are white oak, black locust, for shade, beauty and a pollinator. Tree Tenders could promote trees in the No Mow area. It's important to keep the public informed with signage, "Future Site of", and to let the church know of the herbicide and the goal of Open Space and Environmental Friendliness.
 - iii. PWC Municipal Grant- May 1st is the application deadline. Consideration for a rain garden at Bustard Road. It has water run-off onto the field that impacts local residents. It would be beneficial to create a vegetative swale or a rain garden near the powerline. Donna will walk through with Mary to consider other possibilities or confirm. The stream bank restoration would be much more

expensive and black willow trees could inhibit erosion. Another option is Fischer's rain garden but Jessie said it's functioning. We could overseed and remove thistle at a future nature walk.

- iv. Morgan Log House (MLH) Demonstration Pollinator Garden - EAC members met with Molly three times. Her goal is to excavate to get to the archaeological remains under the pollinator garden. She wants to scrape away grass to expose the building. We would relocate the flower garden to the patch of grass in front of the gated area. Journeyworks can assist with grants as it would go from grass to garden. Cardboard or lasagna mulch will be used this fall. The township will write a letter of support to present for approval at the April 15th meeting. The bees will stay in the excavated area.
- v. Towamencin Comprehensive Plan - Draft plan has been issued. EAC to review and comment on EAC related sections. Comment period ends 3/12. EAC members should review the draft plan and provide input by MARCH 4th. Rich will collate the comments.
- vi. Spring Newsletter Topics - David prepared an article on dark skies. Vanessa prepared an article on upcoming EAC activities. An article on proper disposal of yard waste will be prepared for the fall newsletter.
- vii. 2024 report - no report

6. Township Updates - June 14th Electronic Recycling at NPHS

7. Upcoming Events-

- a. Invasive Species Removal - 4/19/25 from 10 am - 12 pm. David will lead volunteers to remove canada thistle from the rain garden as Fischer's. He has supplies. Short education session followed by hands-on removal.
- b. PWC Stream Cleanup- 4/12/25 - PWC will include local sites, such as Towamencin Creek near pool and Fischer's Park.
- c. Towamencin Day (5/10/25) - PWC, Journeyworks, other EACs, EnAct, Bird Town. A bluebird house can be raffled. EAC member coverage to be discussed at the March meeting.

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

7. Adjournment: At 9:10 pm

8. Next Meeting: 3/11/25 at 7:00 pm

Respectfully submitted by Kelly Bonsignore, Secretary