

**Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**February 26, 2025**

**Attendees:** Dan Dehner, Christopher Mano, Jenny Ashbrook, Bill Silverstein

**Guest Attendees:** Karen Shinkle, Cory Salmon, Shaina Barnes, Janelle Cooney, Karen Sawyer

**Regrets:** Anthony Coschignano, Michael Krauss, Krikor Panossian

**Next Steps / Identified Action Items:**

<b>Date Identified</b>	<b>Responsible Person</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Due Date</b>	<b>Date Completed</b>
2025-02-26	Dan	Lighting Ordinance: Bring it up at the next Commissioner's meeting to see where it has landed	2025-02-27	
2025-02-26	Dan	January Minutes: Provide approved PDF version to Maureen	2025-03-03	
2025-02-26	Dan	Inform Maureen of the Chair and Vice Chair vote results	2025-03-06	
2025-02-26	Dan	Work up a plan to address Rain Garden creation	2025-03-26	
2025-02-26	Bill	Find out what is in the RFP - report findings back to Township Manager and EAC Chair	2025-03-26	
2025-02-26	Chris	Food Initiative Program: Determine interest in supporting this program	2025-03-26	
2025-02-26	Dan	Send the meeting minutes to Maureen	2025-03-03	
2025-01-28	Karen	Rain Garden: Reach out to Williamson College of the Trades - do they have a program which supports the NPT Rain Garden?	2025-03-26	

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**Agenda:**

**1. Approve January Minutes**

- i. Discussion:
  - 1. Posted to Township Website: <https://netherprovidence.org/township-boards-committees/environmental-advisory-committee/eac-agenda-and-minutes/>
  - 2. Vote
    - Yea = 4
    - Nay = 0
- ii. Next Steps:
  - 1. Dan to provide approved PDF version to Maureen

**2. Approval vote**

- i. EAC Chair:
  - 1. Are there any interested candidates?
    - Dan Dehner
  - 2. Vote
    - Yea = 3
    - Nay = 0
- ii. EAC Vice-Chair:
  - 1. Are there any interested candidates?
    - Christopher D Mano
  - 2. Vote
    - Yea = 3
    - Nay = 0
- iii. Next Steps:
  - 1. Dan, Inform Maureen of the vote

**3. The NPT Newsletter deadlines:**

- i. Discussion:
  - 1. From Maureen:
    - We are looking to get the newsletter out in June, not sure yet when the deadline will be.
    - Mona Price does most of the work for the newsletter.
    - Please feel free to reach out to her if you have any questions.
  - 2. Mona Price <mprice@netherprovidence.org>
    - For this year will only have one printed and mailed newsletter.
    - Which will go out to the residents by June.
    - If you could email the article to me by April 1st that would be great.
    - I have no problem posting EAC articles on our Facebook page quarterly either.

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- Just let me know.
- ii. Next Steps:
  - 1. No Further actions at this time

### 4. Rain Garden

- a. Discussion:
  - 1. Michael generated interest with the Schools
    - After contacting "the Principal of Strath Haven (Andrew Benzing)," we definitely have some support from the district
    - I think we now need more information on how we are proceeding on the Rain Gardens but I am much more optimistic.
  - 2. There is a workshop on March 1st at Haverford Township Community, Recreation, and Environmental Center  
9000 Parkview Dr  
Haverford, PA 19041
    - Dan Dehner attending
    - To Register: <https://www.dcva.org/event-6016052>
  - 3. Information on Rain Gardens: <https://www.dcva.org/Rain-Garden/>
  - 4. Possibly Reach out to Master Gardeners
- b. Next Steps:
  - 1. Dan to work up a plan to address Rain Garden creation

### 5. Recycling Communications to Township residents

- i. Discussion:
  - 1. Stickers
    - 1. Discussed doing a small run, and putting the stickers to the inside of the lids
      - a. More specifically the major items to be included
  - 2. Swarthmore EAC did the following:
    - Articles in the Swarthmorean weekly newspaper: EAC members wrote articles about "[Best practices for Recycling in Swarthmore](#)" as a two-week series, and articles describing changes in recycling opportunities, such as the addition of the glass recycling bin at the Swarthmore recycling center.
    - Content on the Borough website: the above articles are linked on the EAC page of the borough website, and we work with borough administration to make wording changes to the content under their recycling tab.
    - Tabling at local events: the EAC has a table once a year at the Swarthmore Farmers Market and at the Swarthmore Charity Fun Fair in May. We have signs and handouts about recycling and talk to passers-by. As a draw to start these conversations, we have a recycling challenge "game" seeing if people can correctly place particular items in the recycling or trash.

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- Social media: We post events and new information on the [EAC FaceBook](#) page. We also post on NextDoor.
  - There are a few locations around town (library, flyer kiosk, food Coop) for posting events such as electronics collections.
3. Media EAC does the Following:
1. The primary means of communicating to Media residents is via the borough's monthly newsletter. It is sent to about 11,000 people, residents and non-residents. It contains everything going on in the Borough. Here is a link to the January edition, the most recent.
  2. We also publish some information using the Borough's social media accounts. That tends to be briefer items and event updates. Both the newsletter and social media posts refer back to the Borough's web site. We'll generally only use social media and the newsletter no more than once a month. We don't have direct access to the newsletter, web site and social media. Our updates go through borough administration. They are all approved by borough administration
  3. The borough's web site has a calendar of events and sections for different borough committees such as the EAC, the Recreation Board, etc. For the EAC, the web site is the primary source of documents such as what is recyclable, FAQs and so on.
  4. We also communicate to businesses via the Media Business Authority (MBA) and meetings directly with Media businesses. We will, as needed, do group meetings via Zoom, etc.
  5. Regarding your example topic, recycling communications: if we wanted to remind residents about changes, we'd have the borough web site updated, then depending on the timing, we request social media posts and a newsletter article. If we just wanted to remind people of what is/is not recyclable, we'd probably just request social media post
4. There are mailing lists within NPT
5. Discussed putting recycling in a plastic bag
1. The plastic bags do not get included with the recycling at the plant
6. Discussed education and enforcement
1. Can ask them to make a list of things they are seeing around town and we can add that information to communication to the residents
7. Discussed updating the website information on Recycling information
1. To make it more prominent (Spotlight)
  2. Need to identify the permanent recycling box
8. Include this information in the Newsletter in June
1. Remember:
    - a. No greasy Pizza Box
    - b. No Plastic bags full of Recycling - the plastic bags and contents are not included in recycling

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9. Discussed invoices from "Republic"
    1. The invoices received appear to be flat and lack more disclosure
    2. They charge \$105/ton
      - a. We need to see what was in the RFP - Bill
      - b. Maureen is better with information like this
  - ii. Next Steps:
    1. Bill to find out what is in the RFP - report findings back to Township Manager and EAC Chair
- 6. Food Recovery Initiative**
- i. Discussion:
    1. Resolution 2021-9 to address zero waste plan for the township
    2. Propose a food recovery program with local businesses
      1. Reached out to "Fond" and ACME
      2. ACME has a program in place for Dairy and meat - they are open for this as a program
    3. Salvation Army in Chester - Discussed with Louis Morse Sr., Director
      1. What can be accepted?
        - a. Fruit, leafy vegetables,
        - b. They are setting up a food shelter and need volunteers - done every 3rd of 4th Thursday
    4. Philabundance
    5. Possibly
  - ii. Next Steps:
    1. Chris to determine interest in supporting this program
- 7. TABLED until March Meeting Information on the energy savings to be included in our spring newsletter**
- i. Discussion:
    1. Chris has provided a thorough update to be included in the News Letter (See [Energy Audits](#))
      - 2025-02-21: Sent to all EAC Full and Ad-hoc members for pre-meeting review
- 8. TABLED until March Meeting A public education campaign on pesticides or the MS4 program**
- i. Discussion:
    1. From Chris: resident education on properly disposing of pesticides, given that the township does not do mosquito spraying
- 9. TABLED until March Meeting Interest in joining outside Nether Providence Meetings**
- i. Sierra Club DelCo Green Team Meeting
    1. Interested, contact: Howard Sherman <howardsherman8@gmail.com>

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- ii. Regional Clean Energy Advocates: [www.ReadyFor100.org/delcopa](http://www.ReadyFor100.org/delcopa)
- iii. Transition Town Greater Media Sustainability Group (TTGM)
- iv. From Walt Cressler, EAC Chair, Media:
  - 1. With regards to networking and raising awareness of what other EACs in Pennsylvania are doing, I recommend (if you haven't already) that your organization to join WeConservePA, since they now organize the EAC Network and hold meetings a couple times annually:  
<https://weconservepa.org/eac/>
- v. ? Any Others to include ?

### 10. **TABLED until March Meeting New Business:**

- i. Questions from Chris Bannan, Media EAC:
  - i. In what ways does the NPT EAC contribute to the quality of life in Nether Providence?
  - ii. What hurdles does the NPT EAC contend with in doing its job?
  - iii. What do you say is the greatest success of that EAC?
  - iv. Are any members of the NPT EAC willing to help with this Sierra Club Green Team project?
- ii. Regarding Power outages (From Michael Krauss)
  - i. My street and surrounding area lost power in the last storm for 3 days until power was restored.
  - ii. I have a gasoline generator and there were at least a half dozen more working for 3 days.
    - 1. In terms of environmental impact I probably put out more emissions with the generator than all of the small motors and cars I use for the entire year.
  - iii. I was wondering if there are any grants available for the township based on emissions or anything else to look at upgrading the infrastructure.
    - 1. If we had underground power lines we probably would not have lost power.
    - 2. Just a thought but improving the infrastructure in areas that have the most frequent problems would likely improve emissions considerably.

### 11. **TABLED until March Meeting Calendar Review:**

### 12. Adjourn

### 13. Next Meeting:

- i. Wednesday, March 26th at 7:00 PM at the Township Building
- i. Agenda will be posted to the website 1 week ahead of the meeting

### 14. Administrative:

- i. Discussion:

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1. Review the Website EAC area:
  1. <https://netherprovidence.org/township-boards-committees/environmental-advisory-committee/>
  2. Contact information:
    - a. There is none - can there be? Meaning "Name@netherprovidence.org"
    - i. Needs to be included on the website
  3. The Areas defined on the Website
    - a. A. Identifying environmental problems.
    - b. B. Recommending plans and programs for the promotion and conservation of the natural resources and for the protection and improvement of the quality of the environment within the area of this township.
    - c. C. Making recommendations as to the possible use of open land areas of this township.
    - d. D. Keeping an index of all open areas, publicly or privately owned, including but not limited to flood-prone areas, swamps and other unique natural areas.
    - e. E. Undertaking such additional duties as requested by the Township Commissioners.
- ii. Next Steps:
  1. Dan: Send Maureen the minutes