

Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
March 26, 2025

Attendees: Dan Dehner, Christopher Mano, Bill Silverstein, Jenny Ashbrook, Karen Shinkle, Paul Nuschke

Ad-hoc Members and Guest Attendees: Carly Lare, Janelle Cooney, Karen Sawyer

Regrets: Shaina Barnes, Cory Salmon, Michael Krauss, Krikor Panossian,

Next Steps / Identified Action Items:

Date Identified	Responsible Person	Description	Due Date	Date Completed
2025-03-26	Bill	Recycling RFP: Reach out to Maureen and see what, if anything, you can do to help	Before next meeting	
2025-03-26	Chris	Information on the energy savings: Add in the URL and provide copy to Dan	ASAP - No Later than March 31st	
2025-03-26	All Members	Outside Organizations: review Sierra Club and others to see if any are interesting to you. Report your findings at next EAC meeting.	Next EAC meeting	
2025-03-26	Dan	Reply to Chris Bannon from Media EAC with the responses to his questions.	ASAP	
2025-03-26	Dan	Community Garden Program: Add topic to the April agenda	Next Agenda	
2025-03-26	Dan	Trees covered in ivy: Add topic to the April agenda	Next Agenda	
2025-03-26	Dan	Electronic information Storage: Dan to include as a topic in next meeting w/ Maureen	Maureen Meeting	

Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
March 26, 2025

Date Identified	Responsible Person	Description	Due Date	Date Completed
2025-03-26	Dan	Rain Garden: continue to work on Plan	Ongoing	
2025-03-26	Dan	Administrative: *provide approved PDF version of last month's minutes to Maureen *Include the Food Initiative Action Plan in next meeting w/ Maureen *send Outlook invites to all members for April meeting *Township Website: heck on the township comprehensive plan - might be a list of areas to address *Send Maureen the DRAFT minutes of this meeting	Before next meeting	

Agenda:

1. Approve Minutes:

- a. Discussion:
 - i. 2025-02-26 Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) Meeting Minutes
 - 1. Yea = 7
 - 2. Nay = 0
- b. Next Steps:
 - i. Dan - provide approved PDF version of last month's minutes to Maureen

2. Lighting Ordinance:

- a. Discussion:
 - i. The commissioners decided to not go forward with it
 - ii. Bill:
 - 1. There was a concern on how to enforce it - they deferred to the nuisance ordinance
 - 2. Could possibly lobby the commissioners individually, as well as push it
 - 3. Historically - Ready for 100 - clean energy resolution

Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
March 26, 2025

- 4. Can use it as public education
 - 5. On the planning commission, there was an incident which was addressed at that stage
 - iii. Karen:
 - 1. Her neighborhood installed LED lighting - very bright
 - iv. Bill - looking at other ordinances are geared toward nuisance - also for "Dark Sky"
- b. Next Steps:
 - i. No further actions on this topic

3. Food Initiative/Recovery Program:

- a. Discussion:
 - i. [Action Plan](#) review
 - 1. Dan to include this in the scheduled call w/ Maureen
 - 2. Get approval from Maureen
 - 3. Can we make it into a weekend
 - ii. Chris:
 - 1. Checked with Lifewerks
 - 2. Purpose to collect donations that people would normally throw away, as a follow through on an earlier township resolution.
 - 3. Still looking for volunteers
 - iii. Questions:
 - 1. Are they also happy to have funding or non-perishable items
 - 2. We are going to begin w/ nonperishable
- b. Next Steps:
 - i. Dan to discuss Action Plan w/ Maureen

4. Rain Garden:

- a. Discussion:
 - i. Initial Project Plan @90% complete
- b. Next Steps:
 - i. Dan to continue to work on Plan

5. Recycling RFP and Next Steps:

- a. Discussion:
 - i. Bill's information/e-mail
- b. Next Steps:
 - i. Bill to reach back to Maureen to see what areas she can use some help

6. From February meeting: Information on the energy savings to be included in our spring newsletter

- a. Discussion:
 - i. Chris has provided an additional update to be included in the News Letter (See [Energy Audits](#))

Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
March 26, 2025

- ii. 2025-02-21: Sent to all EAC Full and Ad-hoc members for pre-meeting review
- iii. Chris to include the URL
- iv. Discussed also sending information out in electronic communication
- b. Next Steps:
 - i. Chris to Add in the URL and provide copy to Dan

7. From February meeting: A public education campaign on pesticides or the MS4 program:

- a. Discussion:
- b. To Be Tabled until the April Meeting
 - i. From Chris: resident education on properly disposing of pesticides, given that the township does not do mosquito spraying
- c. Next Steps:
 - i. To Be Tabled until the EAC April meeting

8. From February meeting: Interest in joining outside Nether Providence Meetings:

- a. Sierra Club DelCo Green Team Meeting
 - i. Interested, contact: Howard Sherman <howardsherman8@gmail.com>
 - ii. Regional Clean Energy Advocates: www.ReadyFor100.org/delcopa
 - iii. SPG Delco is another group
- b. Transition Town Greater Media Sustainability Group (TTGM)
 - i. Variety of sustainability issues, as well as other items
 - ii. Good for all EAC members to check out
 - iii. They have a monthly meeting
- c. From Walt Cressler, EAC Chair, Media:
 - i. 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/>
 - ii. From WeConservePA Website: [EAC | WeConservePA](#)
 - 1. The EAC only works if its recommendations achieve the respect and support of municipal officials.
 - 2. As such, EAC members have strong motivation to be deliberate in their work and maintain good communications with elected officials
 - 3. Bill: There is an annual meeting, which is supposed to be good
- d. Delco Municipal official list on the Delco Site
- e. Next Steps:
 - i. All Members - review outside organizations to see if any are interesting to you

9. From February meeting: New Business:

- a. Questions from Chris Bannan, Media EAC:

Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
March 26, 2025

- i. In what ways does the NPT EAC contribute to the quality of life in Nether Providence?
 - 1. Ongoing experience - e.g. capturing minutes
 - 2. The information about recycling in the newsletter is helpful
 - 3. Public education
 - 4. Worked w/ Parks commission
 - 5. Putting solar panels on Township garage
 - ii. What hurdles does the NPT EAC contend with in doing its job?
 - 1. Working with the commissioners
 - 2. Funding
 - iii. What do you say is the greatest success of that EAC?
 - 1. Membership is full
 - iv. Are any members of the NPT EAC willing to help with this Sierra Club Green Team project?
 - 1. Being researched
 - v. Next Steps:
 - 1. Dan - send responses to 'Chris Bannan' <cmbannan@yahoo.com>
- b. 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. Bill: Created a generator which runs off Propane
 - 2. If we had underground power lines we probably would not have lost power.
 - 3. Just a thought but improving the infrastructure in areas that have the most frequent problems would likely improve emissions considerably.
 - 4. Questions:
 - a. Where is the outage occurring? At The PECO level, from PECO to the house?
 - b. Lots of complaints on PECO cutting trees
 - c. Possibly a battery bank vs a generator
 - d. Possibly share generators
 - iv. Next Steps:
 - 1. No further actions on this topic

Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
March 26, 2025

- c. Chester Ridley Crum Creek Watersheds” Introducing Carly Lare:
 - i. Discussion:
 - 1. Carly with Maureen and relayed Storm water concerns
 - 2. 40 municipalities within CRC
 - 3. CRC programs have changed recently
 - a. Tree planting - utilizes state funding - planted 1000 trees this past year
 - b. Bill discussed an effort of tree planting for street planting
 - c. Stream clean up - one is happening this Saturday - last year pulled out 35k pounds of trash
 - d. Bill asked what is done with the trash - Carly and Bill to share information
 - e. Education Outreach - great opportunity for EACs - host events to get people involved on Environmental problems
 - f. Looking to work with Municipalities and their MS4 program
 - 4. Rain Garden in Upper Providence
 - a. Installed a Rain Garden - used grants to help with the funding.
 - 5. Bill: Discussed Sapovits Park
 - ii. Next Steps:
 - 1. No further actions on this topic
- d. Request from Anthony Coschignano: reuse and repair of electronic items
 - i. Currently, I’m working with Angela Gil, a student from the Presidential Sustainability Research Fellowship (PSRF) program here at the College, who is helping to organize a workshop on the reuse and repair of electronic items.
 - ii. We are looking at this event to take place in late April.
 - iii. It will be an e-waste recycling drop-off event, and they are looking for someone with electronic repair skills to assist during the event by helping to repair items instead of sending them for recycling.
 - iv. If you know anyone who might be interested in volunteering or has expertise in this area, We would greatly appreciate it if you could let us know.
 - v. Question:
 - 1. What types of electronics are you looking to repair?
 - 2. What skills are you looking for? Soldering, Electronic?
 - vi. Next Steps:
 - 1. Dan to reach back to Anthony with the follow up questions -
Complete
- e. Upper Darby Plastic Bag Policy Implementation – Please Share Your Experience!
 - i. Show E-mail
 - ii. Next Steps:

Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
March 26, 2025

- iii. Dan to forward the e-mail to Karen - **Complete**
- f. Trash collections within the township
 - i. It was originally an EAC thing.
 - ii. Had a representative meeting with members from each ward
 - iii. Was initiated
 - iv. There was no solid recommendation
 - v. There was a community survey, and one of the comments was we just picked one for our community
 - vi. Next Steps:
 - 1. No further actions on this topic
- g. Possible Community Garden Program
 - i. Can tie in with the food program
 - ii. Can look into a composting program
 - 1. There is a community-wide composting in Media
 - 2. This was reviewed in the past
 - 3. It was something that did not save overall costs
 - iii. Next Steps
 - 1. Dan to add this topic to the April agenda
- h. Trees covered in ivy
 - i. Can be pulled from the trees (easily)
 - ii. In Furness Park, we were looking at a 3-year program
 - iii. Can use a company to either do the work, or have them train the residents
 - 1. The township was not supportive in funding
 - iv. Has the EAC asked the community in the past?
 - 1. Not much, however, now that the EAC is at full membership, it is possible to do so in the future
 - v. Next Steps
 - 1. Dan to add this topic to the April agenda

10. From February meeting: Calendar Review:

- a. Where do we store our electronic information
- b. Next Steps
 - i. Dan to Include this topic in meeting w/ Maureen

11. Administrative:

- a. Sending Meeting invites on Outlook?
 - i. Would it be helpful to you for these monthly meetings?
 - ii. Next Steps
 - 1. Dan to send Outlook invites to all members for April meeting

Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
March 26, 2025

- b. The Township Newsletter: Info from Mona Price <mprice@netherprovidence.org>
 - i. The Township will be publishing only one printed and mailed newsletter this year, with a digital edition planned for Fall/Winter.
 - ii. If you have any content you'd like included in the Summer newsletter, please email it to me by March 31st. The newsletter will be delivered to residents by July 1st.
- c. Review the Website EAC area:
 - i. <https://netherprovidence.org/township-boards-committees/environmental-advisory-committee/>
 - ii. The Areas defined on the Website
 - 1. A. Identifying environmental problems.
 - 2. 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.
 - 3. C. Making recommendations as to the possible use of open land areas of this township.
 - 4. 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.
 - 5. E. Undertaking such additional duties as requested by the Township Commissioners.
 - 6. All of the above is defined in the EAC Charter (Ordinance)
- d. Next Steps:
 - i. Dan to Check on the township comprehensive plan - might be a list of areas to address C & D above.
 - ii. Dan to send Maureen the Draft Meeting Minutes

12. Adjourn:

- a. 8:47PM

13. Next Meeting:

- a. Next meeting: Wednesday, April 23, 2025 at 7:00 PM, Township Building

Food recovery pilot program - Action Plan

- In accordance with Resolution No. 2021-9 to hereby establish a recommendation for the Nether Providence Township Zero Waste plan - the Nether Providence EAC hereby proposes a food recovery pilot program.
 - 1. Check Existing Logistics for Food Recovery
- **Deadline:** February 21, 2025 - Completed on February 20, 2025 at Salvation Army Chester Corp and March 6, 2025 at Lifewerks, Inc.
- **Parties Responsible:** Chris Mano, Vice Chair of NP EAC
 - Review existing processes and infrastructure for food recovery in the community.
 - Research existing models in neighboring municipalities for insights.
- 1. Confirm Logistics with Community Partner for Pick-ups and Deliveries of Items
- **Deadline:** March 3, 2025 - Completed February 27, 2025 by email.
- **Parties Responsible:** Chris Mano, Vice Chair of NP EAC
- Confirmed the logistics with Lifewerks regarding:
 - Preferred days and times for food donations drop-offs.
 - Clarify how donations will be handled once they arrive.
- 1. Recruit Small Team of 3-5 EAC Volunteers for Food Recovery Task Force
- **Deadline:** By March 31, 2025
- **Parties Responsible:** Chris Mano NP EAC Vice Chair
 - Recruit 3-5 EAC volunteers to form a task force that will be responsible for:
 - Collect donations at designated locations.
 - Sort and categorize the donated food.
 - Ensure that food is delivered to the Salvation Army or any other designated partner.
 - Assign roles for sorting, managing logistics, and communicating with the public and Salvation Army.
- 1. Community Outreach by Announcing the Food Recovery Drive Collection
- **Deadline:** By April 7, 2025, for promotion
- **Parties Responsible:** Chris Mano, Vice Chair of NP EAC and interested EAC Members.
 - Flyers: Design and distribute flyers around the community (township building, community centers, schools, etc.) announcing the food drive and listing the items to donate and any guidance.
 - Social Media: Post on township and EAC social media pages announcing the event. Include key details, donation guidelines, dates, and collection point(s).
 - Community Meetings: Announce the food drive at any upcoming community or EAC meetings.
 - To include this information Spring Newsletter (April 1): Include information about the food drive in the spring newsletter to raise awareness and encourage participation.

Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
March 26, 2025

- Assist in Collection, Sorting, and Distribution to Salvation Army Chester Corp
- **Deadline:** April 26, 2025
- **Parties Responsible:** EAC Task Force Members
 - Start collecting donations from the community and ensure they are organized at a central location (such as the township building or other designated spot).
 - Use a table for volunteers to organize donations by type.
 - Deliver the sorted donations to the Salvation Army or another vendor (Philabundance) on the agreed-upon schedule.
- Evaluation of the Pilot Program After 3 Months
- **Deadline:** By June 30, 2025
 - **Track Metrics:** Keep a record of the total amount of food donated, how much was diverted from landfills, and the number of families served.
 - **Community Feedback:** Collect feedback from participants and volunteers to assess the success and any challenges.
 - **Metrics and Reporting:** Prepare a public report or update to share with the community, township officials, and on social media. Include both quantitative (pounds of food, number of people served) and qualitative (feedback, challenges, successes) data.
- **Potential cost-savings for the Township:**
 1. PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Recycling Grants
- Municipal Waste Planning, Recycling, and Waste Reduction Grants support local governments in developing and maintaining recycling programs, which may include food recovery and waste diversion efforts. Although food recovery is not always the primary focus, we can explore whether the program's flexibility allows for food waste initiatives. The DEP provides funding annually, and the applications are typically available in the fall. Local governments can use these funds for equipment, education, or program development.
- 2. Food Waste Reduction Grant Program
- PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Waste Reduction Programs focus on reducing food waste, including initiatives to improve food recovery and divert food from landfills. The state encourages local governments and organizations to seek grants for projects that focus on sustainable waste management practices, which could include food recovery.
- 3. Local Government Advisory Services and Technical Assistance
- The PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) offers various technical assistance resources, including help with setting up waste diversion programs, evaluating the effectiveness of food recovery programs, and connecting municipalities to nonprofit organizations such as Philabundance.
- 4. Recycling and Waste Diversion Programs - Solid Waste Advisory Committees (SWAC)
- Solid Waste Advisory Committees: These committees often provide grants or financial support for municipalities involved in waste diversion, recycling, and sustainability projects. This could be another avenue to explore when seeking resources for a food recovery program.

Energy Audits: Saving Money and Improving Your Home's Energy

Want to save on your energy bills? Take advantage of these simple steps to assess your home's energy efficiency and make improvements:

1. Obtain Your Free Energy Use Data

- Start by contacting your energy supplier (e.g. PECO) to request free data on your home's energy use.

2. Use the Energy STAR Home Advisor Tool

- Take advantage of the Energy STAR Home Advisor, a free federal tool to guide you in making your home more energy efficient. Scan the QR Code below for the home advisor tool.

3. Federal Tax Credits for Home Improvements

- Did you know you can receive up to \$3,200 a year in federal tax credits for qualifying home improvements to increase energy efficiency?

4. In-Depth Assessments (If Needed)

- If you're interested in a more detailed energy audit, consider reaching out to PECO for a professional energy audit.

5. Find Lower Energy Rates

- Visit the PA Power Switch website to explore different energy suppliers and find a lower rate that could save you money! Scan the QR code below for more information on PA Power Switch.

Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
March 26, 2025

Take these steps today to reduce your energy consumption and improve your home's energy efficiency!

Author: Chris Mano, Vice Chair, EAC

DRAFT

Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
March 26, 2025

9.v. Upper Darby Plastic Bag Policy Implementation

From: christen <christen@contefoto.com>

Sent: Tuesday, March 25, 2025 2:29 PM

Dear Fellow Environmental Leaders,

My name is Christen Cooper, and I am a member of the Upper Darby EAC. Our committee is actively working to improve sustainable initiatives, including exploring the successful implementation of plastic bag reduction ordinances in Upper Darby.

Since your community has already taken significant steps, your insight is valuable.

As part of my capstone for my master's, I invite you to participate in a **brief, confidential survey** aimed at understanding what strategies, communication efforts, and resources contributed to the success of your plastic bag ordinance implementation.

Also, if you could share this survey with as many individuals involved in your Plastic Bag Ordinances that would be very helpful.

Your feedback will help shape effective outreach and policy strategies here in Upper Darby and potentially support neighboring municipalities considering similar measures. This is an independent survey and not associated with Upper Darby Township.

Please follow the link to take this confidential 5-minute survey.

https://ttucomc.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eD2rdh4NWqXOucS

Thank you in advance for sharing your valuable experience and expertise! Please reach out to me directly if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Christen Cooper
Upper Darby Environmental Advisory Committee
484-437-5399
christen@contefoto.com