

Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
April 23, 2025

Attendees: Chris Mano, Krikor Panossian, Bill Silverstein, Karen Shinkle, Jenny Ashbrook

Ad-hoc Members and Guest Attendees: Michael Krauss

Regrets: Dan Dehner, Shaina Barnes, Anthony Coshignano, Cory Salmon

Next Steps / Identified Action Items:

Date Identified	Responsible Person	Description	Due Date	Date Completed
2025-04-23	Dan/Chris	Recycling RFP: Check on Bill's email regarding recycling cost savings and engage with township commissioners	Before next meeting	
2025-04-23	Chris	Food Recovery Program: Chris to update Food Recovery flyer and incorporate feedback from EAC members. Dan to share with Maureen and Mona to publicly promote the initiative for May 9.	ASAP - No Later than April 25.	
2025-04-23	Dan	Rain Garden: Work on meeting with Science Teacher at Strath Haven High School	By Next EAC meeting	
2025-04-23	Dan	Rain Garden: Work on meeting with a representative at The Williamson School	By Next EAC meeting	
2025-04-23	Chris	Follow up with Joy at Lifewerks to coordinate drop-off day and times on May 9.	Before May 9th	
2025-04-23	Chris, Jenny, and Karen S.	Assist with the Food Recovery Event	May 9	
2025-04-23	Bill	Look into compliance with the MS4 program.	By Next EAC meeting	
2025-04-23	Bill	Revisit lighting ordinance?	By Next EAC meeting	
2025-04-23	Jenny	Community Garden Program: Identify solutions and conduct research	By Next EAC meeting	

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Date Identified	Responsible Person	Description	Due Date	Date Completed
2025-04-23	Dan	Community Garden Program: Reach out to Swarthmore EAC.	By Next EAC meeting	
2025-04-23	Paul	Trees covered in ivy: Explore grants for this. Pennell Trail got a grant	By Next EAC meeting	
2025-04-23	Dan	Trees covered in ivy: Reach out to Rose Valley EAC about tree ivy practices. - Contact: Leonard Busby - chair in Rose Valley	By Next EAC meeting	
2025-04-23	All Members	Continue to engage with Outside Organizations: review Sierra Club and others to see if any are interesting to you. Report your findings at the next EAC meeting.	By Next EAC meeting	

Agenda:

1. Approve Minutes:

i. Discussion:

1. 2025-03-26 Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) Meeting Minutes

1. Yea = 5

2. Nay = 0

ii. Next Steps:

1. Dan to provide PDF version of this month's minutes to Maureen

2. AI - Dan to provide Approved PDF version to Maureen

2. EAC Charter: (Ordinance): Updates on existing initiatives

i. Identifying environmental problems.:

1. Recycling RFP and Next Steps

- Audit in the first 30 days in contract annually.
- Bill said they bill us on recyclables not residential mix. We get a \$20 credit

2. Trash collections within the township

- Chris: Asked Bill the brief history of trash collection and recycling in the township.
- BNL - pick-up and recycling. Republic - has had contract for actual recycling
- Had a representative meeting with members from each ward
- There was no solid recommendation
- There was a community survey, and one of the comments was we just picked one for our community
- Feedback: Residents were worried about traffic

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- Michael: Need township commissioner buy-in - easier to get data from one supplier
 - Bill:
 - Krikor: Mentioned Recycling stickers. It is important to recycle items correctly.
 - Bill: Mentioned how some items are thrown in mistakenly or incorrectly.
 - Public support may be difficult - Bill says ask the neighborhoods.
3. Next Steps:
- Krikor and Bill recommend we follow up with Shaina regarding the recycling stickers.
 - Krikor recommends public education regarding recycling.
 - EAC will check Bill's information/e-mail to present cost-savings to commissioners
- ii. 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:
1. Food Initiative/Recovery Program: [Flyer Here and Action Plan](#)
1. Chris: Dan and I met with Maureen, township manager, and Mona Price on March 31 at the township building. Program was approved, will supplement existing efforts
 2. Have drafted a flyer - requested feedback from members
 3. Interested EAC Members on task force to assist with collection, sorting (if needed), and delivery of food donations to Lifewerks
 4. Questions:
 - a. Date/time to hold the event? EAC Members said May 9th between 9 am-5pm.
 - b. Paul suggested a township meeting as a drop-off night
 - c. Paul said it may need to be more clear - how does it help the environment?
 - d. Bill: On the flyer: such as instead of ONLY
 - e. Paul says Food recovery drive - title can be smaller. Donate unwanted dry goods. Give more details about Lifewerks.
 - f. Paul offered to help with the flyer
 5. Next Steps:
 - a. Will need to follow up with Joy at Lifewerks to coordinate drop-off day and times on May 9.
2. Rain Garden
1. Met with
 - a. Carly Lare (Dir of CRC Watershed) - discussed Possibilities and Grants
 - i. Chris: I also met w/ Carly Lare on April 16 regarding the rain gardens.
 - b. Anthony Coschignano (Ad-hoc member and Associate VP for Campus Services @ Swarthmore College) - Discussed Swarthmore students taking on the Plant Plan
 - c. Clare Hyre (Dir. of Sustainability @ Swarthmore) - Discussed Swarthmore students taking on the Plant Plan

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2. To Do
 - a. Carly Lare is providing a Rain Garden Maintenance Workshop on May 3rd (<https://crcwatersheds.networkforgood.com/events/86311-rain-garden-maintenance-workshop-in-media>)
 - b. I would like to meet with
 - i. Science teacher at Strath Haven
 - ii. Representative at Williamson School
3. A public education campaign on pesticides or the MS4 program
 1. Chris: Met w/ Carly Lare. Other townships put info about MS4 in their newsletters. CRC works with them on items to put in the near future.
 2. Chris: CRC does tours with residents on stormwater management.
 3. Chris: Thinking that we do an event/demonstration on this within the next year. Can work with the school district to do a presentation and a community tour.
 4. Bill: There are obligations for the local government to comply with the MS4 program. There is a point system.
 5. Next Steps:
 - a. Bill: Look into compliance with the MS4 program.
 - b. Bill: Revisit lighting ordinance?
4. Possible Community Garden Program
 1. Jenny: Did some research. Identifying and exploring a location. Can partner with schools, use park space potentially
 2. Paul: Suggested Gouley Park
 3. Krikor: In his neighborhood they have empty lots and are not being used. Give an incentive to do it there.
 4. Paul: What can the township supply there?
 5. Jenny: Yard compost might not be ideal.
 6. Krikor: Mulch suppliers in the area may want to help.
 7. Jenny: Community education on food waste. Can complement the food recovery initiative.
 8. Krikor: Infrastructure requirements may be difficult.
 9. Bill: Rose Tree Park has one. Is anyone a member of one?
 10. Paul: Helped to build it
 11. Next Steps:
 - a. Krikor: Reach out to Swarthmore EAC. Action item for Dan.
5. Trees covered in ivy
 1. Chris: Joined as an ad-hoc member of the Parks Commission. Informed that EAC and Parks Commission can collaborate.
 2. Chris: I am suggesting family fun events to do this June at one of the parks.
 3. Chris: From Parks Commission: it has been suggested that having residents cut tree branches to remove any debris and keep our parks beautiful.
 4. Chris: Can use a company to either do the work, or have them train the residents
 5. Chris: From last meeting: In Furness Park, we were looking at a 3-year program

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6. Chris: From last meeting: The township was not supportive in funding
 7. Paul: Swarthmorean: Ivy covered trees in Rose Valley - education. Contact: Leonard Busby - chair in Rose Valley.
 8. Next Steps:
 - a. Explore grants for this. Pennell Trail got a grant. Action item for Paul.
 - iii. Making recommendations as to the possible use of open land areas of this township
 1. Bill: Possible community gardens
 2. Bill: 10 year township Comprehensive plan?
 3. Next Steps:
 1. Action item for Dan – Look into a 10-year township Comprehensive plan
 - iv. 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
 1. Documents gathered:
 1. ResourcesMap: [Here](#)
 2. OpportunitiesMap: [Here](#)
 3. Multi-Municipal Parks, Recreation, Trails and Open Space Plan: [Website Here](#)
 2. Discussion:
 1. Chris: Dan contacted Dave Grady, former township manager, and was able to locate the following maps and plans.
 2. Bill: Is this old? Has it been updated in the last 10 years?
 3. Next Steps:
 - a. Dan to review for updated information
 - v. Undertaking such additional duties as requested by the Township Commissioners
 1. No items to discuss
- 3. Administrative:**
- i. Interest in joining outside Nether Providence Meetings:
 1. Jenny: Ready for 100 program
 1. Attended a Zoom call with them. Organizing materials to hand out at events. Contacted Delco Green Team to get involved with the local Sierra Club. Networking is important.
 2. Bill: We have a resolution for townships to commit to certain goals.
 3. Jenny: Will get more info from the Delco Green Team. Received a big picture overview.
 2. Dan: Darby Creek Valley Association
 1. Working with their team on Rain Garden Design Visits
 - ii. Meeting invites on Outlook - how'd that work out?:
 1. Paul: Reply all on the calendar invite. So that people who do not use calendar invites receive it.
- 4. New Business:**
- i. No New Business
- 5. Calendar Review:**
- ii. Internal Review only

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6. **Adjourn:** 8:45 PM

7. **Next Meeting:**

- i. Wednesday, May 28, 2025, at 7:00 PM at the Township Building:

DRAFT



Food Recovery Drive

Help your Neighbors in Need and the Environment by reducing food waste

Donate unwanted Dry goods Including:

- Cereal
- Bread
- Rice
- Pasta



Drop-off site at Township Building - 214 Sykes Ln

Date: May 9, 2025

Time: Between 8 am - 10 am

By: Chris Mano and the Nether Providence EAC

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 - Completed.
- **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 30, 2025, for promotion - Update
- **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.
- Assist in Collection, Sorting, and Distribution to Lifewerks

- Deadline: **May 2, 2025 or May 9, 2025 - Finalize Update after meeting**
- **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 July 30, 2025 - Update**
 - **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.



