

Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
May 28, 2025

Attendees: Christopher Mano (Host,) Bill Silverstein, Jenny Ashbrook, Karen Shinkle

Ad-hoc Members and Guest Attendees: Shaina Barnes, Michael Krauss

Regrets: Paul Nuschke, Dan Dehner, Krikor Panossian, Cory Salmon,

Next Steps / Identified Action Items:

Date Identified	Responsible Person	Description	Due Date	Date Completed
2025-05-28	All EAC members	Recycling RFP: Check on Bill's email regarding recycling cost savings and engage with township commissioners	By next meeting	
2025-05-28	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 meeting	
2025-05-28	Chris	Food Recovery Program: Chris to reach out to Salvation Army Chester Corps	By next meeting	
2025-05-28	Jenny	Community Garden Program: Identify solutions and conduct research Talk to Delaware County contact.	By next meeting	

**Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
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Date Identified	Responsible Person	Description	Due Date	Date Completed
2025-05-28	Chris, Jenny, and Karen S.	Assist with the Food Recovery outreach.	June 18	
2025-05-28	Shaina	Look into whether "Strawbale Piles" are not allowed by the Township	By next meeting	
2025-05-28	Bill and Shaina	Explore battery drop-off boxes	By next meeting	
2025-05-28	Chris and Shaina	Encourage resident meetings with individual commissioners		
2025-05-28	Shaina	Regarding Community Garden Program, Discuss with Maureen about land		
2025-05-28	Dan	Rain Garden: continue to work on	Ongoing	
2025-05-28	Dan	Administrative: *Provide approved PDF version of last month's minutes to Maureen *Send invites to all members for May meeting *Township Website: on the township comprehensive plan - might be a list of areas to address *Send Maureen the DRAFT minutes of this meeting	By next meeting	
2025-05-28	Dan	Spearhead any updates to index of all open areas	Ongoing	

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Date Identified	Responsible Person	Description	Due Date	Date Completed
2025-05-28	Dan	Provide Karen links to Transition Town Greater Media	By next meeting	

Agenda:

1. Approve last month's Minutes:

- i. 2025-04-23 Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) Meeting Minutes
 - 1. Yea = 4
 - 2. Nay = 0
- ii. Next Steps:
 - 1. Dan: provided approved PDF version of last month's minutes to Mauree
 - 2. Dan: To provide PDF version of this month's minutes to Maureen

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

- i. Identifying environmental problems.:
 - 1. Recycling RFP and Next Steps
 - 1. Chris: Suggests we talk to our commissioners first
 - a. Speak with commissioners to do a community survey on recycling providers (BNL - pick-up and recycling. Republic - has had contract for actual recycling)
 - 2. Use Bill's analysis and \$20 credit incentives in discussions
 - 3. Chris: Recycling Forum -
 - a. Bill: Recycling - food waste composting recycling - frequency - one Saturday or one Tuesday per month?
 - b. Bill: Community forum - we can introduce some things - like batteries

Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
May 28, 2025

- c. Jenny: A battery drop-off box?
 - d. Michael: Home Depot and Lowe's have drop-off boxes
 - e. Shaina: Battery drop-off box at garage?
 - f. Bill: Township drop-off for electronics recycling?
 - g. Shaina: Will ask Maureen. Put together resources to hand out.
 - 2. Next Steps:
 - 1. Explore battery drop-off boxes?
 - 2. Community recycling forum
- 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. (Chris) Food Initiative/Recovery Program
 - 1. [Action Plan Updates](#)
 - 2. Chris:
 - a. We saved 22.3 lbs. of food waste in the last food recovery drive on May 9.
 - b. Interested EAC Members on task force to assist with collection, sorting (if needed), and delivery of food donations to Lifewerks
 - 3. Questions:
 - a. Date/time to hold the next event? August 9?
 - b. Chris: I connected with Joy of Lifewerks and let her know that we could do these food drives every 2-3 months. I also made contact with Director Morse of the Salvation Army Chester Corps and Isaiah Thomas' office in Philadelphia. Hoping to expand the food drives into Chester and Philadelphia.
 - c. Bill: Any other activities to pair up the food recovery drive with?
 - i. Shaina: Family Fun Day in October: EAC table.
 - 2. Next Steps:
 - 1. Chris: Will need to follow up with Joy at Lifewerks to coordinate drop-off day and times.

Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
May 28, 2025

3. Rain Garden

1. Chris: How did the event go earlier this month?
 - a. Shared Paul's earlier note to the group, as he attended the event and helped.
2. Bill: Pollinator garden seems easier to build - we could do both.
3. Met with Strathaven HS - Will work with them in the 25/26 school year
4. Met with Swarthmore College, will work with them in the Fall, 2025
5. Still looking to meet with someone at Williamson School

4. A public education campaign on pesticides or the MS4 program

1. Chris: CRC does tours with residents on stormwater management. Will check in with Carly Lare (CRC Watersheds) this summer.
2. Bill: Any particular neighborhoods to send her to?
3. Shaina: Henry Ln
4. 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.

5. Possible Community Garden Program

1. Jenny: How to Start a Community Garden" resource. I can share it.
 - a. Matt Hatfield in NPT would be interested in being involved in the community garden program
 - b. Upper Darby is in the process of starting a community garden - has the contact information and can share it.
 - c. Jenny: Where would the location be? We would need input from commissioners. Share this with the community and how they can get involved. Format?
 - d. Bill: What is step one?
 - e. Jenny: Form a planning group.
 - f. Bill: Is demand high enough?
 - g. Shaina: Will talk to Maureen to see if it is possible with land to construct it on? We need a plan or slideshow to make it beyond an idea
 - h. Jenny: Site selection might be an issue - need six hours of sunlight. Could be in a park.
 - i. Michael: What is the sunlight at the location? Access?

Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
May 28, 2025

- j. Bill: Smedley? Is it a township park?
- k. Michael: County park.
- 2. Next Steps:
 - a. Jenny: Talking to the county contact is a good next step.
 - b. Shaina: To talk to township manager Maureen about land.
 - c. Bill: Krikor had shared that they may be land to use
 - d. Michael: Would not recommend private lease of land
 - e. Shaina: Look into Leiper?
- 6. (Dan) Trees covered in ivy
 - 1. Need to defer this to the NPT Shade Tree Committee
 - a. Does this topic have to do with Township Property or Private?
 - i. Shaina - it would be the parks
 - b. Contact Ian Springer
- 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. Bill: Talked to Bob Lind - 10-year plan is on hold. No hard deadline. He would like to have EAC members involved.
- 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. Materials we currently have access
 - 1. Resources Map
 - 2. Opportunities Map
 - 3. Multi-Municipal Parks, Recreation, Trails and Open Space Plan
 - 2. Bill: These maps are simpler plan revision. There are certainly items that need to be updated. This includes trails.
 - 3. Next Steps
 - 1. Dan to spearhead this
- v. Undertaking such additional duties as requested by the Township Commissioners
 - 1. No items discussed

Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
May 28, 2025

3. Administrative:

- i. Interest in joining outside Nether Providence Meetings:
 - 1. Transition Town Greater Media (TTGM): Karen needs links
 - 1. Zero Waste group
 - 2. Habitat Helpers group (To help with the Ivy and also Rain Garden)
- ii. Next Steps:
 - 1. Dan to review what links Karen needs and supply

4. New Business:

- i. Chris: Joy of Lifewerks shared that strawbale piles are supposedly not allowed by the Township due to pests - burrowing, disease. Wanted me to bring it up to the group. Can we look into it?
- ii. Next Steps:
 - 1. Shaina: Will look into it.

5. Calendar Review:

- i. Karen is away the end of June and will be unable to make the June Meeting
- ii. Krikor will be unable to make the June Meeting
- iii. Shaina will need to miss due to vacation in July
- iv. Michael will not be present in July

6. Adjourn: 8:12 pm

7. Next Meeting:

- i. Wednesday, June 25, 2025, at 7:00 PM at the 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

- a. Deadline: February 21, 2025 - Completed on February 20, 2025 at Salvation Army Chester Corp and
- b. March 6, 2025 at Lifewerks, Inc.
- c. Parties Responsible: Chris Mano, Vice Chair of NP EAC
- d. Review existing processes and infrastructure for food recovery in the community.
- e. Research existing models in neighboring municipalities for insights.
- f. Confirm Logistics with Community Partner for Pick-ups and Deliveries of Items
- g. Deadline: March 3, 2025 - Completed February 27, 2025 by email.
- h. Parties Responsible: Chris Mano, Vice Chair of NP EAC
- i. Confirmed the logistics with Lifewerks regarding:
- j. Preferred days and times for food donations drop-offs.
- k. Clarify how donations will be handled once they arrive.

2. Recruit Small Team of 3-5 EAC Volunteers for Food Recovery Task Force

- a. Deadline: By March 31, 2025 - Completed.
- b. Parties Responsible: Chris Mano NP EAC Vice Chair
- c. Recruit 3-5 EAC volunteers to form a task force that will be responsible for:
- d. Collect donations at designated locations.
- e. Sort and categorize the donated food.
- f. Ensure that food is delivered to the Salvation Army or any other designated partner.
- g. Assign roles for sorting, managing logistics, and communicating with the public and Salvation Army.

Food Recovery Pilot Program - Action Plan

3. Community Outreach by Announcing the Food Recovery Drive Collection

- a. Deadline: By April 30, 2025, for promotion - Update
- b. Parties Responsible: Chris Mano, Vice Chair of NP EAC and interested EAC Members.
- c. 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.
- d. Social Media: Post on township and EAC social media pages announcing the event. Include key details, donation guidelines, dates, and collection point(s).
- e. Community Meetings: Announce the food drive at any upcoming community or EAC meetings.
- f. To include this information Spring Newsletter (April 1): Include information about the food drive in the spring newsletter to raise awareness and encourage participation.

4. Assist in Collection, Sorting, and Distribution to Lifewerks

- a. Deadline: May 2, 2025 or May 9, 2025 - Finalize Update after meeting
- b. Parties Responsible: EAC Task Force Members
- c. Start collecting donations from the community and ensure they are organized at a central location (such as the township building or other designated spot).
- d. Use a table for volunteers to organize donations by type.
- e. Deliver the sorted donations to the Salvation Army or another vendor (Philabundance) on the agreed-upon schedule.

5. Evaluation of the Pilot Program After 3 Months

- a. Deadline: By July 30, 2025 - Update
- b. Track Metrics: Keep a record of the total amount of food donated, how much was diverted from landfills, and the number of families served.

Food Recovery Pilot Program - Action Plan

- c. Community Feedback: Collect feedback from participants and volunteers to assess the success and any challenges.
- d. 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.
- e. Potential cost-savings for the Township:

6. PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Recycling Grants

- a. 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.

7. Food Waste Reduction Grant Program

- a. 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.

8. Local Government Advisory Services and Technical Assistance

- a. 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.

Food Recovery Pilot Program - Action Plan

9. Recycling and Waste Diversion Programs - Solid Waste Advisory Committees (SWAC)

- a. 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.