

Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
August 27, 2025

Attendees: Dan Dehner (Host,) Bill Silverstein, Jenny Ashbrook, Karen Shinkle, Krikor Panossian, Paul Nuschke

Ad-hoc Members and Guest Attendees: Michael Krauss, Janelle Cooney, Leona Panossian

Regrets: Shaina Barnes, Cory Salmon,

Next Steps / Identified Action Items:

Date Identified	Responsible Person	Description	Due Date	Date Completed
2025-08-27	Bill	Provide Dan information on additional Recycling events	By End of August	
2025-08-27	Dan	Provide Maureen with the Approved Minutes from June, 2025	By End of August	
2025-08-27	Dan	Find out where Swarthmore has a glass recycling bin located - report to Jenny	By Early/Mid-September	
2025-08-27	Dan	Where does plastic waste go? - keep as a future topic	By next meeting	
2025-08-27	Dan	Gas Powered Gardening Equipment - keep as a future topic	By next meeting	
2025-08-27	Dan	public education campaign on pesticides or the MS4 program - keep as a future Topic	By next meeting	
2025-08-27	Dan	public education campaign on pesticides or the MS4 program - Ask Maureen what reporting is being done at the township Level	By Early/Mid-September	
2025-08-27	Dan	ask Maureen about what grants the EAC can ask for	By Early/Mid-September	
2025-08-27	Dan	Tree Tenders - find out more information from the Media EAC	By next meeting	
2025-08-27	Dan	Find a contact from the Rose Valley EAC and provide info to Paul	By Early/Mid-September	

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Date Identified	Responsible Person	Description	Due Date	Date Completed
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	By next meeting	
2025-05-28	Shaina	Regarding Community Garden Program, Discuss with Maureen about land	By next meeting	
2025-06-25	Paul	Regarding Downed Trees: reach out to Shade Tree Committee - Maybe a township program to get rid of dead trees, a possible discount	2025-07-23	Ongoing
2025-06-25	Jenny	Regarding Electric cars and their charging; review which grants available	2025-07-23	Ongoing

Agenda:

Note: The order of discussion will be: Review Action Items list, 3. **Administrative**, 1, **Approve Minutes**, 2 **EAC Charter**, 4. **New Business**, 5. **Calendar Review**

1. Approve Minutes:

- i. Discussion:
 - 1. To Approve Minutes from June, 2025
 - 2. The meeting in July, 2025 was cancelled
- ii. Next Steps:
 - 1. **Dan** provide Approved PDF version to Maureen

2. EAC Charter:

- i. Identifying environmental problems.:
 - 1. Recycling
 - 1. PRC
 - a. has a 20' Container used for Glass Recycling

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- i. Townships can request this Glass Recycling Container for a 3 week period
- ii. Is Nether Providence Interested?
 - 1. **DECISION:** No, not at this time
 - 1. Contact: Sarah Alessio Shea, Deputy Director with PRC - She is taking over as Chris Bunn left on 8/15 - **Complete**
- iii. Details:
 - 1. The upside is that it is 100% glass collected vs the current lower percentage in normal recycling efforts
 - 2. The cost of this is:
 - 3. Initially free (Only for a period (TBD))
 - 4. The cost of hauling is currently \$800.00; however, Chris Bunn is working on getting that number down to \$300.00
- iv. **Does Nether Providence want to be involved?**
 - 1.
- v. Swarthmore has a glass recycling bin
 - 1. **Dan**, find out where
- b. e-Waste Collections
 - i. Tues, Sept 23 at Rose Tree Park
 - ii. Register at:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/electronic-recycling-collection-in-delaware-county-at-rose-tree-park-tickets-1564099596999?aff=oddtcreator>
 - iii. Bill identified several Recycling events
 - 1. **Bill**, send info to Dan
- 2. Discussion from Bill S on the review of Recycling invoices
- 3. PennPIRG Flier
 - a. Where does Plastic Waste Go?
 - i. **Dan** keep as a future topic
- 2. Gas Powered Gardening Equipment
 - 1. From discussions in the summer of 2024
 - a. HOA ran a trial in Aug
 - b. Results were inconclusive
 - 2. Media has a ban that Gas Powered equipment cannot be used before 9:00 AM within their borough
 - a. Media has a ban on Gas Powered Leaf blower
 - i. The Media Council enacted a partial ban school mornings until 9am

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- b. The Media EAC members joined with Transition Town of Greater Media working towards expanding the time and geography. We now have folks from Swarthmore, Upper Providence and Middletown
 - 3. There appears to be 2 concerns:
 - a. Decibel level
 - b. Environmental concerns
 - 4. **Dan** - Keep this topic on the agenda
 - 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. Rain Garden Report
 - 1. Two Swarthmore Students are dedicated to performing Research for the Rain Garden
 - a. Initially research to create Plant Plan
 - b. Additionally to research grant opportunities
 - 2. Food Initiative/Recovery Program
 - 1. The Township already has a Food Recovery Program
 - 2. Remove this topic from ongoing agendas
 - 3. A public education campaign on pesticides or the MS4 program
 - 1. Looking for a volunteer to take this over - **Karen Shinkle will champion this topic for now**
 - a. Bill thinks we need to keep this topic
 - b. The township are obligated to do
 - c. Keep this on the topic - want to understand who does the reporting
 - i. **Dan** - Keep this on the topic
 - ii. **Dan** - who at the township does the reporting?
 - 2. Results from which areas in NPT have drain water issues
 - 4. Community Garden Program (Jenny A.)
 - 1. Question to Jenny: RE: Community Garden Program
 - a. Need input from Shaina - possibly on locations
 - i. The above is an ongoing Action item from 2025-05-28
 - 5. Temporary Topics:
 - 1. Recycling Stickers
 - a. Circle Back with Shaina for an update on where this is
 - 2. Balloon Awareness
 - a. Ask Shaina when this was an EAC topic?
 - iii. Making recommendations as to the possible use of open land areas of this township
 - 1. No Discussion

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- 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. No Discussion
- v. Undertaking such additional duties as requested by the Township Commissioners
 - 1. No Current Requests from Township Commissioners

3. Administrative:

- i. Looking for a full member to volunteer to become Vice-Chair of our EAC
 - 1. **Main duty:** Step in and host EAC meeting when Chairman is unavailable
 - 2. **Other duties:** Meet with Chair as needed to review topics of upcoming meetings
 - 1. No members volunteered for this position
- ii. Changing the night of the month the EAC meets: - 1st Tuesday
 - 1. On what night of the month should we meet?
 - 1. Wednesday's don't work for all Full Members:
 - a. Dan Dehner, Bill Silverstein, Jenny Ashbrook, Karen Shinkle, Krikor Panossian, Paul Nuschke
 - 2. Available are all Tuesday's
 - a. From Dan Dehner: Prefer the 1st or 3rd Tuesday of the month
 - 3. We need to inform the changed date to Maureen Feyas (Township Manager) by September
 - 2. **DECISION by Vote:** 1st Tuesday of the month

4. New Business:

- i. Grants
 - 1. Are opportunities to submit for funding for various projects: e.g. Rain Garden, Community Garden?, Watershed, etc...
 - 1. I might be able to get the Research Students from Swarthmore College to help
 - 2. This will take a team effort
 - 3. AI - ask Maureen about what grants the EAC can ask for
- ii. Regarding Downed Trees:
 - 1. Paul's Action Item
 - 1. Can a suggestion be made to help reduce the cost
 - 2. Talk to the shade tree
 - 2. Janelle brought up "Tree Tenders"
 - 1. **Dan**, Reach out to Media and find out more information
- iii. Rose Valley EAC
 - 1. **Dan**, find out who, send to Paul

5. Calendar Review:

- i. Discussion:

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1. Dan is Away the end of September
 1. Since there is no one to host the EAC meeting in September, the September meeting is cancelled
- ii. Next Steps:
 1. **Dan** Inform Maureen the September meeting is cancelled
6. **Adjourn:**
 - i. 8:01 PM
7. **Next Meeting:**
 - i. Since there is no one to host the EAC meeting in September, the September meeting is cancelled
 - ii. October 22, 2025, at 7:00 PM at the Township Building