Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
October 6, 2026

Attendees: Dan Dehner, Bill Silverstein, Britt Dunning, Jenny Ashbrook, Karen Shinkle, Krikor Panossian, Paul Nuschke

Ad-hoc Members and Guest Attendees: Lili Panossian, Dr Woody Kotch, Suzanne Barron, Karen Sawyer, Jonathan Winder, Janelle Cooney

Next Steps / Identified Action Items:

Date Identified	Responsible Person(s)	Description	Due Date
2026-10-06	Dan	Regarding Recycling message to students, work w/ Brian Ward	By next meeting
2026-10-06	Dan, Krikor, Paul, Lili	Coordinate a call to discuss a re-think of the EAC Website	By next meeting
2026-10-06	Dan	Provide registration links for the 2026 Pennsylvania Sustainability Week Webinars to Karen, Paul, Brian Ward, Britt	ASAP
2026-10-06	Paul, Britt, Krikor, Lili	Operate the EAC Table at the upcoming Family Fun Day	2026-10-10
2026-10-06	Dan	Ask Maureen and Shaina for the EAC Banner	2026-10-10
2026-10-06	Dan	Provide Krikor with the Speaker Series Fliers for Family Fun Day	2026-10-10

Agenda:

1. **Guest Speaker**
    i. Dr. Woody Kotch, PA Master Naturalist, Xerces Society Ambassador
    ii. Topic: Nesting and Overwintering Habitat

2. **Approve September Minutes**:
    i. Dan to provide Approved PDF version to Maureen

3. **EAC Charter**:
    i. Identifying environmental problems.:
        1. Recycling
            1. To sticker, or not to sticker, that is the question
                - To sticker, or not to sticker, that is the question
                    - What is the best public education?
                    - An idea to add it to the Newsletter
                    - Discuss it at the classroom level
                        - Is there an organization that comes in
                        - PRC
                        - Principle at Middle school, there is a committee with advisory groups
                        - Push out the message at the advisory level, possible a 10 to 15 minute time
                        - Dan to work with Brian Ward
                    - What to recycle and how to recycle
                    - The paper identifying what to and what to not recycle
                    - Avoid placing recyclables in Plastic bags
                    - Be careful about the resident differences of the middle school - some kids are Nether Providence and some are in Swarthmore
                    - Greenhaven or Strathaven - can also get their students involved
            2. About Township recycling require vendors to do education
                - Bill met w/ Maureen because the contracts are up this year
                - They are questioning whether to do it the same way

            3. From the Delaware County Office of Sustainability: SWIFR
                - Open Question from Sept: *The collection site is there but how does it get to the collection site?*
                i. Response from Olivia Sansome, Sustainability Coordinator:

1. In discussions with the DCSWA, we are taking the approach of a "build it and they will come" model.
2. We are still ironing out the details as of right now, but what we currently know of what this would look like is that once the construction phase of the project is underway, we will be meeting with large commercial entities (the Philadelphia Airport, Subaru Stadium, etc.) and municipalities to present the project, and help those municipalities determine if they would like to begin a composting program through a curbside or community drop-off bin program, which will then be hauled by them to our site in Chester Township.
3. The perk of this composting operation that did not previously exist in or close to the County is a large processing capacity and a closer location for drop off (other than Mother Compost, who is fixated on a larger Greater Philly region).
4. This is a huge reason why I wanted EACs in the County to have this project on their radar now as within the next year will be the time to push your municipality to establish a program.
5. We are also hoping that residents and commercial entities that want to do their own hauling or have pre-established hauler contracts will be able to drive up and drop off their self-collected compost.
6. This is our hope, but we are relying on feedback we would get back on a traffic study, which will take place within the next six months.

2. Outdoor Gas-Powered Equipment
    1. Quote from PA Sustainability Webinar, Energy Storage 101
        a. "Regulate the project well, avoid Banning"

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. Free-the-Trees
        1. Paul and his son worked on the Lieper-Smedley Trail between arts center and Rodgers Lane.
        2. Ideal location as a first outing for a Free-the-trees effort this year.
        3. To make this project recur, we should pick a day of the month and stick to it throughout the Winter and early Spring
            a. Suggestions? e.g. Third Saturday of the month
            b. We need to begin advertising this now

iii. Making recommendations…
    1. **There will be no effort expended on this topic until the Township releases a useable Comprehensive Plan**

iv. Keeping an index…
    1. **There will be no effort expended on this topic until the Township releases a useable Comprehensive Plan**

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

4. **Administrative**:
    i. Rethinking the Website
        1. Paul, Krikor, Lili - Is there a time when we can all meet and discuss?
            1. Dan to reach out set up a call

AN ADDITIONAL TWO ITEMS

ii. The November EAC Meeting
    1. It falls on Election Day, Nov 3rd
    2. We need to move the meeting - the only other date available that month is Tuesday, November 10th.
    3. Website link

iii. 2026 Pennsylvania Sustainability Week
    1. noon to 1:00 PM Webinars
        1. Mon, 10/05: Empowering the Future - it all starts with the grid
        2. Tues, 10/06: Energy Storage 101

3. Wed, 10/07: Support Infrastructure for EV's, Energy and Transportation
4. Thurs, 10/08: Energy Efficiency, Auditing and Act 129 Program Update
5. Fri, 10/09: Business highlight - Industrial Sector Sustainability

2. Who's Interested?
    1. Karen, Paul, Brian Ward, Britt,

5. **New Business and Upcoming Events**:
    i. Family Fun Day:
        1. Saturday, October 10, 2026, from 12:00 PM to 3:00 PM, Strath Haven Middle School Parking lot
            a. Set up begins at 10:30 AM
        2. Who will operate the table?
            a. Committed:
                i. Paul
                    i. Free the tree fliers
                ii. Britt
                iii. Krikor and Lili
                    i. Speaker Series Fliers / Recycling game
            b. Dan to ask for the EAC Banner
        3. What do we present at a table?
            a. Stickers
            b. Recycling Display
                i. What can be recycled or not
                ii. There were prizes for the above
            c. Free the tree fliers
            d. Speaker Series Fliers - Dan to provide Krikor the fliers

ii. EAC & Municipal Sustainability Conference:
    1. Hosted by WeConcervePA
        1. Link to registration (Link)
    2. Saturday, October 24th, 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM
    3. Location:
        Retreat to St. Thomas
        7020 Camp Hill Road
        Fort Washington, PA 19034
    4. Early bird special ends October 9th

6. **Calendar Review**:

7. **Adjourn**:
    i. The Meeting adjourned at 8:16 PM

8. **Next Meeting**:
    i. November 10, 2026, at 7:00 PM at the Township Building 2nd floor conference room:
        1. **NOTE**: The above is a change from our regular scheduled meeting due to Election Day commitments