

**Towamencin Township  
Environmental Advisory Council  
Minutes of the July 9, 2024 Meeting**

**Present:** Brett MacKay, Joseph (Joe) Meehan, Donna Hegge, Vanessa Gaynor, David McCreary, Kelly Bonsignore, Rich Costlow

Dave Kraynik- Township Supervisor  
Joyce Snyder- Board of Supervisors Representative  
Joe Silverman - Guest, Towamencin resident

Absent: Rory Kelley

1. Call to order: 7pm
2. Opening comments- no opening comments
3. Public Comments-Joe Silverman re Dark Sky. Joe indicates that the four street lights Bustard Rd/Sumneytown Pike are too harsh. He recommends 40 degree downlight to replace these lights to minimize the strength of the lighting. Perhaps hiring a bucket truck would be necessary to change the lights. Per ordinance, Street Level lighting needs to be globelights but Joe suggested installing a parabolic light inside the globe.
4. Approval of minutes David made a motion to and Vanessa seconded
5. Old Business
  - a. 2024 project updates - (Informational)
    - i. No Mow - Brett/Vanessa:
      1. Mary clarified that for the permit for the no-mow areas it can be mowed twice a year (spring and fall) and we could remove invasive weeds.
      2. General thoughts about no mow areas: Nut trees could be planted to reduce the thistle. Stormwater management needs taller growth to have deeper roots.
      3. Possible areas to target: Township front, Keebler Meadow, Pollinator Garden at Morgan Log House.
      4. Vanessa suggested that we identify and inventory the various areas in the township. David McCreary offered to go out and see what's out there and Vanessa offered to assist. DCNR has a list of invasive plants to assist to identify what is out there.
      5. Mary Stover, Township Engineer, and Jesse Kemper from Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy should be involved in making suggestions once areas to target are identified .

- ii. Annual State EAC Fall Gathering update (Rory)- tabled until next meeting
- iii. Dark Skies- Supervisor Kofi Osei checked the land development ordinances and it does mention globe lights. To change the lights for future development, ordinances would need to be rewritten. Brett indicated Planning Commission is working on that so that moving forward, new buildings would need to be Dark Skies compliant (lower than 90 degrees).

6. New Business

- a. Develop Agenda for Public Works Meeting- have a meeting to discuss areas of mutual environmental concern with Public Works and establish a working relationship between EAC & Public Works will create a document for EAC members to add suggestions for discussion. Dave K would like to attend as well.
- b. North Penn Area EAC Joint Letter to NPSD recommending LEED certification during high school renovation project- Donna made a motion to continue working with other EACs on draft letter. A formal vote on whether to sign the letter would occur at a later time after draft complete (additionally, at the suggestion of Dave K, at that time we would clarify that it's anEAC suggestion, not a formal action of township).. David seconded the motion. Motion carried.

7. Township Updates (Informational) - Dave/Colleen/Joyce- grants for MS4 project at Grist Mill retention basin submitted., Retrievr Recycling agreement to get some revenue for Towamencin is slow to get resolution.

8. Upcoming Events

- a. We Conserve PA EAC Conference - October 5, 2024 8am- 5pm at Temple U Ambler.

9. Any other business and closing

10. Adjournment- Donna made a motion to adjourn, Brett seconded at 8:21

11. Next meeting: August 13, 2024, 7pm