

**Towamencin Township
Environmental Advisory Council
Minutes of the March 11, 2025 Meeting**

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

Joyce Snyder – Township Supervisor

Colleen Ehrle– Township Director of Administration

Bruce Bailey, Casey Hennings - Guests, Towamencin residents

1. Call to order: 7:04 pm
2. Opening comments: None.
3. Public Comments: Township resident expressed concern regarding the sale and building of current Freddy Hill and Walton farm properties. Joyce's response was that the township has no jurisdiction on private property sales of land. The 140 acres of properties are zoned for residential building (R175). Houses will bring tax revenue. Hopefully the builders will build homes closer together under the possible zoning change being reviewed by the Planning Commission for a conservation overlay for cluster housing, to allow for more open spaces and pathways.
4. Minute Approval: Vanessa made a motion to approve the February Minutes and Brett seconded the motion.
5. Old Business:
 - a. 2025 Project Updates
 - i. No Mow - The area in front of the township building is about 10,022 square yards and therefore mulch to suppress canada thistle is not feasible. Virginia, from Penn State extension who is also a master gardener, was consulted and suggested using triclopyr to manage the thistle and crown vetch. Northern sea oats by seed, and plugs can be planted to grow in place of the invasive plants. The plan is to apply herbicide, mow, seed decorative sea oats in the center, place more decorative plants in the outer perimeter, and leave the trees as they are there. Master gardener will volunteer for consultation. A request will be written to the PA State Extension for planning support. We will need the township to approve a plan before any action occurs. David M will prepare a plan for EAC consideration . We proposed using the township newsletter to publicly communicate an overview of the plan and timing; this will require Township

cooperation This late spring will begin with the mow, and herbicide. Second treatment is expected in September or October. The plan is three years.

- ii. PWC Municipal Grant- application deadline is May 1st.. Donna and Mary will take a look to consider a rain garden at Bustard Road. It has water run-off onto the field that impacts local residents. It would be beneficial to create a vegetative swale or a rain garden near the powerline.
- iii. Morgan Log House (MLH) Vanessa said that Journeywork can help convert the grass in front of the existing beehive garden to meadow. The C2P2 grant Journeywork is applying for will be work in 2026. The process will begin with grass smothering in the spring followed by planting and watering new gardens in the fall. Morgan Log House will need assistance with watering from Public Works in fall and occasionally in spring/summer the following year until the garden is established. The current pollinator garden inside the fence that is overrun by crown vetch will be dug out by Public Works to expose archaeological remains of the original barn. Grant would also provide education support and free 'lawn conversion' kits with native plants for residents over several years.
- iv. Towamencin Comprehensive Plan - EAC members provided input to contribute to feedback regarding environmental perspective.
- v. Towamencin Day - (5/10/25) - PWC, Journeyworks, other EACs, EnAct, Bird Town. A bluebird house can be raffled. Bruce and Dave will make birdhouses.
- vi. Workshops - can be determined through email
- vii. 2024 report - not reported at meeting

6. Bird Town Subcommittee – Township participation in Bird Town Pennsylvania was approved at Towamencin Board meeting in February. Township application was accepted by Bird Town Pennsylvania outreach committee. The program will provide two street signs and we have a budget for more signs. Three dates for the public meetings are April 10th, June 12th, September 11, 2025.

7. Upcoming Events-

- a. NPHS EnAct Spring event (Plant Sale and Hop into Spring for kids) - 4/5/25
- b. PWC Stream Clean-up - 4/12/25 includes local sites, such as Towamencin Creek near the pool and Fischer's Park.
- c. Invasive Species Removal - 4/19/25 10 am - 12 pm
- d. Towamencin Day – 5/10/2025 12 pm - 4 pm
- e. Electronics Recycling at NPHS

8. Next Meeting: 4/8/25 at 7:00 pm
9. Other business - 30 day expiration of burn ban from fall 2024 discussed
10. Brett motioned to adjourn, Dave seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 9:23pm.

Respectfully submitted by Kelly Bonsignore, Secretary