

**Towamencin Township
Environmental Advisory Council
Minutes of the June 10, 2025 Meeting**

Present:

EAC members: Brett MacKay, David McCreary, Donna Hegge, Joseph (Joe) Meehan, Rich Costlow, Rory Kelley, Vanessa Gaynor, Corina Fiore

Board Liaison: Joyce Snyder

Towamencin residents: Bruce Bailey, Casey Hennings

1. Call to Order: 7 pm
2. Opening Comments: Rory Kelly called the meeting to order and announced that Kelly Bonsignore was resigning effective immediately. He asked Rich Costlow and Corina Fiore if either of them would be interested in moving from an associate member to a voting member. Rich said that he would like to continue as an associate member due to his position on the Open Space Committee. Corina Fiore agreed she would like to advance as a voting member. Joyce Snyder said this agenda item would be added to the Supervisor meeting on June 25th.
3. Public Comments: Casey Henning spoke about the Freddy Hill development plan and his concerns for the native wildlife that is there, specifically in the grassland that was the old cattle grazing field. He says that he has identified over 20 species of birds and that he is concerned about the environmental impact of development. He thanked the EAC for allowing him to speak.
4. Approval of minutes: Rory asked if everyone had time to review the minutes and asked for any revisions. Upon hearing none, he asked for a motion to approve the minutes. There was a motion, and a second. The motion passed and the minutes were approved.
5. Bird Town PA subcommittee: There was a notification from the state that there is an upcoming Bird Clutch meeting, but they do not know the date and time. There is going to be a Bird Walk at Fischer Park on Saturday, June 14, at 7:30 am.
6. New Business
 - a. Potential EAC Review and Comment on Development Plans:
 - i. There is a suggestion on the table that the EAC, perhaps in concert with Open Space, review the tree plan for Freddy Hill Farm and Walton Farm development properties to include native plantings.
 - b. Ordinance Review Discussion
 - i. The current ordinances need updating as they include non-native species including some potential invasive species. We reviewed the process for suggesting a rewrite of the ordinance.

1. Send the updated language to Will Brugger, with a cc to Mary Stover.
 2. Mr. Brugger will review the language and forward it to the solicitor.
 3. Once the language is approved by the solicitor, it will be sent to the Supervisors for a vote and for adoption
 - ii. It was suggested that the ordinance include more native plants, eliminate the invasives, and link back to the Penn State Extension for best practices.
 - iii. The question arose on whether we should include meadow suggestions as well. There was no resolution on this matter.
 - iv. Joyce was asked when we can present or discuss this with the developer. It was suggested that the time to present this would be during the land development process when the landscape plan is being discussed.
 - v. The EAC members were tasked with looking at Code 360 to identify which ordinances need updating. We will write drafts of the updated copies in the ordinances folder in google drive. Brett said that he could identify them since he was familiar with where they were in the code and he could place them in the folder for review.
 - c. Giant Grant: There is a \$4000 grant available from Giant to Plant Native trees. Rich is going to follow up with Open Space to write the grant. It is unclear if we can apply for the grant as a municipality.
7. Old Business
- a. 2025 Projects
 - i. Journeywork Giveaway
 1. There were 6 people who signed up for the Journeywork Giveaway for Pollinator Pallooza. There was a motion to increase the budget for the giveaway from \$350 to \$450 so that all six could be covered by the giveaway. The motion passed. It was suggested that all that received the giveaway write a review for Journeyworks to let us know what they thought of the service.
 - ii. No Mow Project
 1. The Supervisors gave unanimous approval for us to proceed with the invasive elimination project. The contract was signed with Weeds Inc. The issue now is scheduling as Weeds Inc. is tight on schedule and they need 24 hours of no rain. The question was raised if we go with the other contractor if Weeds Inc. could not do it by the end of June. It

was decided to wait on that decision based on whether or not Weeds Inc. could schedule us.

2. The EAC will put up signage to include a QR code so that residents can be informed about what is occurring
3. Information will also be sent out in an email blast for full transparency
- iii. PWC Municipal Grant:
 1. Bad news was that, despite filling out the form online, PWC did not receive the grant application, and the grants have already been awarded.
 2. NPWA also has a grant that will provide money for the same project. We will follow up with PWC to get more details.
- iv. Workshops
 1. Stream Explorers: Corina will offer a Stream Explorers workshop in Fischer Park from 10-11:30. The pavilion has been reserved, we are waiting on the waiver approval from the solicitor. The course description was sent to the township for advertisement.
 2. Permaculture Workshop: David will offer a permaculture workshop in September or October. More details are coming soon
 3. Bird Town: a third workshop may be added later in the year with Bird Town.
- v. 2024 Report : The 2024 EAC annual report was sent to the Township and is not on the website.
- vi. Feral Cat Ordinance
 1. Research has been completed about neighboring municipalities that have a feral cat ordinance and are also Bird Towns. The language of those ordinances are being considered
 2. Decided that more information about the full extent of the problem needs to be considered before we move forward with the proposed ordinance
- b. Budget:
 - i. The EAC is looking at projects for the next year and are in the information gathering phase to look at the scope of the projects as well as potential costs. We will have a proposed budget request for 2026 in the coming months.

- ii. Current budget considerations include
 - 1. Resident workshops - time is being donated, but some supplies may be needed.
 - 2. Signage for the for No Mow project: Most likely around \$25 per piece according to some preliminary research.
 - 3. More permanent signage is being considered.
- 8. Township Updates (informational)
 - a. 2026 spending should be submitted
 - b. Need approval for \$5000 for a single item is due by the end of July
 - c. Consideration of stream crossing signs in the budget
- 9. Upcoming Events
 - a. Bird Town PA meeting June 12 at 7 pm
 - b. Bird Walk June 14 at 7:30 am at Fischers Park
 - c. Electronics Recycling at NPHS June 14th 9-12 pm
 - d. Stream Explorer workshop July 26th 10 am Fischer's Park
- 10. Any other business and closing
 - a. No other business was discussed
- 11. Adjournment