



**Towamencin Township
Environmental Advisory Council**

Minutes for the August 12th, 2025 Meeting

Present: Brett MacKay, Corina Fiore, David McCreary, Donna Hegge, Joe Meehan Rich Costlow, Vanessa Gaynor

Board Liaison: Joyce Snyder

Public: Bruce Bailey, Casey Henning

1. Call to order at 6:59 PM by Donna.
2. Opening comments: None
3. Public Comments: Bruce thinks the no mow area outside the township building is coming along.
4. Approval of minutes from July: Joe motioned to approve them, Brett seconded. All voted in favor.
5. Bird Town PA Subcommittee:
 - a. The additional street signs will be arriving this month.
 - b. There is a Bird Walk in Fischer's Park on Saturday, September 6 from 7:30-10 AM.
 - c. Donna talked to David Brothers nursery about a native plant sale. We would like to host the business within the township, and they will sell their inventory of shrubs, trees, perennials, etc. EAC could possibly buy flats of plugs and resell them, since David Brothers will not sell them individually. Donna to coordinate with David Brothers and township to see if September 20 from 9-1 at Firehouse Park would work. Corina can write something for e-news about benefits of native plants to help with education.
 - d. Bruce shared that a town in New England has a long stretch of wall covered in bird houses for educational and art benefits. Curious if there is somewhere in Towamencin this could happen. Can be discussed at the next Bird Town meeting.
6. New Business
 - a. Ordinance review: Brett, David, Joe and Vanessa had reviewed the landscaping ordinance since the past meeting, with the goal of updating it to encourage native plantings in new developments. The committee agrees that rather than just removing possibly invasive species, we should also add more native options to the ordinance. The committee recommends a diversity requirement and minimum native planting requirement. EAC will continue reviewing suggestions to the ordinance over the next

month with a final discussion occurring at the September meeting, with the goal to send it to the Planning Commission for their October meeting.

- b. Dark Skies update: Based on a 2024 discussion by the EAC, Brett introduced changes to the parking lot lighting ordinance at the August Planning Commission meeting. Changes align with Dark Skies initiative. Rich would like to review the ordinance proposal to verify it meets Dark Skies, and will discuss again if any issues are found.

7. Old Business

a. 2025 projects

- i. No Mow project: There will be one additional treatment to the no mow area at the municipal building in September or October, with possibly a followup treatment in October or November. Overseeding with grasses will occur alongside that 2nd treatment in October or November. David will assess the Callery Pears present in the area and determine what treatment is needed. David will obtain quotes from Weeds Inc for overseeding this year and for the 2026 program, which would include spot treating/maintenance of municipal area and restoring another no mow area.

ii. Workshops:

- 1. Stream Explorer recap: There were 11 youth participants at this workshop led by Corina. They did a bio-indicator study of the creek (results showed it is in pretty good shape), caught crayfish, and had a lot of fun.
- 2. Permaculture Workshop discussion: David will host this lecture on October 20 at 7 PM at the Township Building. Giveaways to participants may include pumpkins and a book on soil health.

- iii. Grants: Montco is sponsoring an open space grant ("Forever Green") and the township is aware.

- b. Budget: Possible spend for remainder of the year includes purchasing plants from Davids Brothers at the plant sale and plant them at the barren butterfly garden in Fischer's Park. Vanessa to follow up with staff.

- 8. Township Updates (Informational): Joyce shared there is a possible acquisition of 9 acres by the township that could be used for open space or Public Works facilities. No formal progress has occurred on any pending land developments. The Board of Supervisors will name the no mow area at the municipal building at an upcoming meeting.

9. Upcoming Events -

- a. Bird Town PA bird walk- September 6, 7:30-10 AM at Fischer's Park
- b. Bird Town PA Subcommittee meeting - September 11th, 7 PM Towamencin Township building

10. Any other business and closing:

- a. Corina and David had attended a Penn State Extension presentation on riparian buffers. Corina would like to discuss how the EAC can advise developers on how to plant stormwater retention basins to prevent failure of plantings and ensure they become healthy habitats. This is of especial concern with Freddy Hill and future developments.
- b. Casey would like to see positive changes to ordinances in anticipation of upcoming developments, such as Dark Skies compliance and permitting younger trees to be planted in new developments to encourage better growth.
- c. Township newsletter submissions are due Friday, August 22. Articles will include one about Bird Town by Andrew Dolan, one about sustainable yard waste disposal by Vanessa and one about native plantings by Corina.

11. Adjourned at 8:59 PM.