

Towamencin Township Environmental Advisory Council

Minutes for the September 9th, 2025 Meeting

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

Board of Supervisors: Joyce Snyder, Amer Bargouth

Public: Anthony Long, Casey Hannings

1. Call to order at 7:00 PM
2. Opening comments
 - a. Rory's term expires at the end of the year and he does not plan to reapply. There will need to be a new chair in January.
3. Public Comments- None
4. Approval of minutes - Joe motioned to approve, Brett seconded. Minutes approved unanimously.
5. Bird Town PA Subcommittee- Well attended bird walk this past Saturday with over 40 attendees. Bird Town meeting this Thursday, September 11 at 7 PM. Native plant sale by David Brothers at Firehouse Park on Saturday, September 20 from 9-1. Will not be pursuing a planting at Fischer's Park this year. 5 street signs will be posted by Public Works soon.
6. New Business
 - a. Ordinances
 - i. Grassland Protection
 1. Casey presented information on a proposed ordinance to designate grasslands, meadows, prairies, and pastures as natural resources under 153-616. He outlined environmental concerns related to grassland ecosystems (such as grassland bird populations declining 53% since 1970 and loss of insects by 9% each decade), stormwater mitigation, and carbon sequestration.
 2. Discussion included ensuring that ordinance does not hamstring conservation, mowing schedule considers insect lifecycles, native versus non native versus invasive species considerations.
 3. EAC will continue to review and make revisions, for approval at the October meeting. It will be sent to township staff (manager, engineer, zoning, solicitor). Afterwards, it will be forwarded to the Planning Commission for review and recommendation by December meeting. It will be sent to the Board of Supervisors at a subsequent meeting for advertisement and voting.

4. Brett will lead coordinating review and revisions.

- ii. Landscape Ordinance

1. Reviewed revisions to the "Street trees and plantings" and "Street trees and plantings" ordinances with the goal of removing invasive and watch list species and encouraging native plantings.
2. Donna motioned to recommend the ordinance updates, Dave seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
3. Brett to complete formatting changes and forward to township staff for review.

- b. Dark Skies - Ordinance to improve lighting standards in accordance with Dark Skies was passed by the Board of Supervisors at their August meeting.

7. Old Business

- a. 2025 projects

- i. Troxel Meadow project

1. Board of Supervisors has officially changed the name of the no-mow area at the municipal building to Troxel Meadow.
2. Second treatment occurred Monday, September 7. Contractor has recommended a seed mix of 5 grasses to overseed. Quotes pending for seed blend and for 2026 restoration of no mow area along Bustard Rd. Bustard Rd site includes thistle and Bradford pear; contractor recommends spot treating.
3. Contractor is willing to give a workshop about meadow restoration next year.
4. Signage - Motion to post educational information on township website and create a sign for Troxel Meadow by Dave, second by Brett. Passed unanimously.
5. Joyce and Dave to work on sign design and send to Public Works

- ii. Workshops -

1. Permaculture Workshop discussion-

- a. Dave to send information to Michele for advertising.
- b. There will be a \$15 sign up fee, and participants will receive education book giveaway

- iii. Grants- Nothing to discuss

- b. Budget

- i. 2025 Budget planning

1. We have remaining budget to subsidize additional native plant sets from Journeywork for residents. Rory to work through logistics with

Journeywork to enable township to subsidize half of the native plant sets for residents.

ii. 2026 Budget Planning

1. Reviewed proposed budget line items including: no mow restoration, native plant set subsidies for residents, EAC conferences, Bird Town, operations.
2. Corina motioned to request a budget of \$10,200, Joe seconded. Passed unanimously.

8. Township Updates (Informational) - EAC members invited to Citizens Committee Volunteer Luncheon.

9. Upcoming Events -

- a. Bird Town PA Subcommittee meeting - September 11th, 7 PM Towamencin Township building
- b. Native plant sale - September 20th, 9-1 at Firehouse Park
- c. EAC Budget Presentation, October 15th, 6:30 PM
- d. Permaculture Workshop, October 20th 7:00 PM

10. Any other business and closing

- a. Reviewed process to apply as an Associate member of the EAC.

11. Adjournment at 9:37 PM