

**Towamencin Township
Environmental Advisory Council
Minutes of the May 13, 2025 Meeting**

Present:

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

Board Liaison: Joyce Snyder

Towamencin residents: Bruce Bailey, Corina Fiore, Stacy Spizziri

1. Call to order: 7pm

2. Opening comments: Rory requested attendees to avoid side conversations until the adjournment of the meeting

3. Public Comments: None

4. Approval of minutes- Brett motioned to approve the April 2025 minutes, Joe seconded. All voted in favor. Minutes were approved.

5. Bird Town PA Subcommittee: Vanessa reviewed list of completed projects so far, including information sharing at the EAC Invasive species removal in April and tabling at Towamencin Day. Reception at Towamencin Day was positive and the committee gave out 10 birdhouses. A bird walk is planned at Fischer's Park on June 14 at 7:30 AM. Potential future projects include a bird house building workshop and native plant sale. Bruce Bailey is contacting other Bird Towns that have municipal ordinances regarding feral cats. 2 street signs will be posted by Public Works soon. Discussion occurred regarding Bird Town PA's budget. Rory indicated that the subcommittee can allocate the remaining \$300 to street signs, and any other costs can come from EAC budget (for operational needs and bird house building workshop).

6. New Business

a. America 250 Committee- This is a township committee helping to prepare for the 250 anniversary of the USA. The Board of Supervisors has requested a representative from EAC. No volunteers at this time.

7. Old Business

a. 2025 projects

i. No Mow- Bruce and Dave solicited bids from 3 companies and 2 vendors provided quotes. Vendors and quotes were discussed. The EAC decided to recommend Weeds Inc rather than a general landscaper due to Weeds Inc's specific knowledge base and experience working on naturalization projects at environmental conservation areas in Southeastern PA. Quote was \$2,300 and includes 3 treatments this year. Treatments will be customized based on the company's assessment of the vegetation. After the last treatment in the fall, the area will be overseeded with native northern oat grass to outcompete remaining invasives and provide deep root structure. Quote does not include seeding, but EAC will obtain a quote for that. If the quote is not favorable, seeds can be purchased in bulk for about \$250 and seeded by volunteers. In 2026, the area will be assessed to determine if another treatment is required. Plans for 2026 and 2027 could include adding diverse native plants around the perimeter, mown paths, trees in center, and bird houses. Project will be presented at the May 28th Board of Supervisors meeting for approval of the project and spending.

ii. Towamencin Day - The mini-environmental fair at Towamencin Day was successful. Tables included EAC, Bird Town PA, journeywork, and North Penn High School ENACT club. Rory would like the township to send thank you letters to the high school volunteers. Next year consider doing some of the giveaways half way through the event. At the EAC table, families enjoyed making native seed bombs. The EAC distributed 72 native seedlings. A tree was planted by Bruce and Rich. 6 individuals signed up for converting part of their lawn to native gardens with journeywork, and EAC will subsidize half the price as part of the planned budget line for lawn conversion. In the future, EAC would like to consider participating in joint events with other local EACs outside of Towamencin Day.

iii. PWC Municipal Grant- Donna met with Jessie Kemper of Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy (PWC) for a site visit of the potential swale location within Bustard Road Park. Donna submitted the municipal grant application to the PWC. Jessie indicated that the project will also be considered for a separate North Penn Water Authority grant. Donna will coordinate any questions from PWC for Public Works. If the grant is approved, Towamencin will need to provide volunteers for the install.

iv. Workshops- EAC will support Bird Town PA bird house workshop. David will run a workshop with a presentation on permaculture with plant

giveaways. Resident Corina Fiore will run a stream water survey workshop for children at Fischer's Park in July or August. She will coordinate with the township for signups and waivers.

v. 2024 report- Rory will submit the prepared report to the township.

b. Budget- Budget was reviewed.

8. Township Updates (Informational) - Dave/Colleen/Joyce- Joyce advised that the new Supervisor, Amer Barghouth, will be sworn in on Wednesday, May 14.

9. Upcoming Events -

- a. Bird Town PA meeting June 12th at 7 pm
- b. Bird Walk June 14th at 7:30 AM
- c. Electronics Recycling at NPHS 9-12 June 14, 2025

10. Any other business and closing: Rory advised that the feral cat ordinance will be discussed at the June meeting. Rory also requested that future tree plantings be 100% native when the EAC is involved, to support native wildlife and ensure we are not introducing species that are either invasive, do not help local wildlife, or are not on the PA Native Tree list.

11. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:42 PM.

12. Next meeting June 10, 2025 at 7pm at Township Building