



Towamencin Township Environmental Advisory Council

Minutes for the July 8th, 2025 Meeting

Committee members: Brett MacKay, David McCreary, Joe Meehan, Rory Kelley, Vanessa Gaynor

Board liaison: Joyce Snyder

Public: Bruce Bailey

1. Call to order at 7 PM
2. Opening comments
 - a. EAC resignation letter from Kelly Bonsignore was received by the township today. The Board plans to vote on a replacement at their July 23 meeting. EAC has recommended that Corina Fiore, associate member, be moved to a voting member.
 - b. Rory will not be in attendance at the August 12 meeting and will ask Donna to run the meeting.
3. Public Comments
 - a. Bruce Bailey shared that he visited Gwynedd Friends where Journeywork (local nonprofit focused on native plantings) is re-naturalizing a section of their land. They are now seeing rare native plants grow from the seedbank. Journeywork is also hosting a workshop on Saturday July 12 with Sara Weaner Cooper about converting lawn to meadow.
4. Approval of June 2025 minutes: Motioned by Brett, seconded by David. Approved unanimously.
5. Bird Town PA Subcommittee
 - a. Bird Walk was hosted on Saturday, June 14 with Valley Forge Audubon Society. It was co-led by committee member Andrew Dolan and his son. About 25 participants, including 3 members of the committee, were present. They identified 37 different species of birds, which were recorded in ebird in this [Fischer's Park Bird List](#).
 - b. Children's bird house workshop is being planned for January 2026. Rory suggested purchasing supplies with 2025 budget.
 - c. Committee will be ordering additional street signs.
 - d. Committee will submit an article for the township fall newsletter
 - e. Possible plans for next year include bird walks, native plant sale, and installing bird

houses at municipal meadow. Estimated budget is \$1,500. Joyce suggested reaching out to Public Works to see if they can source bird house poles for cheaper.

f. Next meeting Thurs, Sept 11 @ 7 PM

6. New Business

a. Ordinances

- i. Feral cat ordinance was previously discussed. Because no information about local cat colonies or TNR has been received by Stray Cat Blues, this ordinance is tabled for this meeting.
- ii. EAC will proceed with reviewing 'A116 Street trees and plantings' from Towamencin code book. The goal is to remove invasive species from code and also have it refer back to the PA DCNR list of invasive species, to ensure plants that might be listed as invasive in the future are automatically removed from being eligible for planting. Committee discussed putting plant species in an appendix with supplementary information about each species. Committee discussed whether to include diversity requirements or required minimum percentage of native species into the ordinance, and determined minimum was a better choice. Percentage will be discussed once the final list of appropriate species is determined. EAC members are to review and make recommendations by the August meeting. Radnor Township's current ordinance was mentioned as a good model. Once a suggested ordinance is prepared, it will be sent to the township code enforcement officer, engineer and manager, then forwarded to the township solicitor. The ordinance would be reviewed by the Planning Commission prior to being sent to the Board of Supervisors for a final vote.

7. Old Business

a. 2025 projects

i. No Mow project

1. Treatment occurred at the end of June at the no mow area at the township complex. Yellow flags for safety were displayed for the required amount of time. The contractor, Weeds Inc, also identified canary grass, in addition to the thistle, and treated that as well. The contractor suggested the area be overseeded with a custom blend of grasses for diversity and resilience. They will provide a quote for overseeding when they return in August or September for the second treatment. A possible third treatment will occur in October or November, if necessary, followed by overseeding
2. Joyce urged that signage goes up at no mow area with a QR code. It should point to a new page on the Township website with information

about the project before the next treatment so that residents can access educational information.

ii. Workshops

1. Stream Explorers Workshop will occur on Saturday, July 26 for children ages 7-12. The committee discussed possibly distributing science kits or books to participants.
2. David will present a permaculture lecture in the fall. Time will be set with township staff for sometime in October. There may possibly be a native plant giveaway (provided from EAC members' gardens).

iii. Grants

1. Bird Town PA provided a letter of support to the Open Space and Parks Advisory Committee for their grant submission to GIANT's "Healing the Planet" tree planting program.
2. Morgan Log House, Journeywork, and EAC to work with State Senator Pennycuick's office to set up a DCNR site visit for the C2P2 grant Journeywork submitted for lawn conversion work within Towamencin.

- b. Budget: Goal is to finalize EAC's 2026 budget request by September meeting. It will include an estimate to restore another no mow.
8. Township Updates (Informational) - Joyce relayed there will be 3 presentations on potential developments at the next Board meeting. Joe relayed that the Grist Mill Park project is behind schedule but the soccer fields at Green Lane Park are progressing.
9. Upcoming Events -
 - a. Stream Explorer workshop July 26. 10 am Fischer's Park
10. Any other business and closing: None
11. Adjournment at 8:39 PM

Respectfully submitted by Vanessa Gaynor