



Towamencin Township Environmental Advisory Council

Minutes from the May 12th, 2026 Meeting

Council members present: All members present.

Council members absent: All members present.

Public present: Bruce Bailey

Board of Supervisors (BOS) Liaison present: Vanessa Gaynor

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7pm.

2. Opening Comments

There were no opening comments from council members.

3. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

4. Approval of Minutes from 3/10/2026 and 4/14/2026 Meetings

- The council discussed potentially rectifying some grammatical errors and sentence structure issues within the March 10th minutes to ensure all comments were written in complete sentences. Joe and Corina motioned to approve the March 10th minutes as they were. The motion passed unanimously, and the minutes were approved.
- Corina and Joe motioned to approve the April 14th minutes. The motion passed unanimously, and the minutes were approved.

5. Bird Town PA Subcommittee Report

Bruce Bailey provided the following updates on Bird Town...

- The next meeting will be held on June 4, 2026.
- The subcommittee will be hosting a table during Towamencin Day.
- Informational handouts from Bird Town central will be shared with the group at a later time.
- Bruce had attended a zoom meeting about "Bird City" which is a new network that seeks to form a union between different bird organizations worldwide. As different organizations grow and gain new memberships they can often start to compete with each other. This network aims to decrease the competition and improve collaboration across their shared goals.

- Bruce “feels like a foreigner at times” - despite being a resident all his life.
- Bird City is primarily looking to homogenize all the different groups into one large online presence.
- Interested municipalities and organizations would be encouraged to participate with a webpage. Pictures and informational message blurbs from the township could be uploaded to this site, and would be automatically formatted to be uniform with the other participating organizations.
- Bruce is looking for a volunteer to take on this objective. He is ideally looking for someone younger with the time and familiarity to tackle managing an online cover page.
- The idea is to join the crowd and build awareness for the Township’s birds within our local parks.
- Bird City essentially operates as a website directory for the different bird organizations from Canada down through South America.
- Corina mentioned that her daughter could potentially take on this task.
- Bird Town is now looking to track volunteer data with documentation. The data they are looking to collect includes... How many hours are volunteers working? How many attendees are at events? How many volunteers are at each event? How many members are at each event? How many events are being held? All of these data points are likely being collected for grant-writing purposes.

a. Next Meeting - 6/4/2026

b. Table at Towamencin Day next to EAC tables - Donna H. requested table and 2 chairs

6. Old Business

a. 2025 projects

i. Annual Report - Corina F.

- Corina presented an overview page by page of the annual report that she had drafted.
- The report contains an introductory and conclusion page with 3 separate sections in between that detail the EAC’s education and outreach initiatives, ecological improvement projects, and ordinances reviews.
- Corina will look for a picture to include highlighting Towamencin Day 2025.
- The ecological improvement section highlights the invasive species clean ups and meadow restorations.
- Ordinances featured only entail those brought to completion by time of report drafting. These include the Dark Skies and updated Landscaping ordinances.
- The council will review the report and look for any needed revisions or alterations.
- Comments can be made directly on the document by council members for review at the next meeting
- Vanessa will receive the finalized draft and share it with the Board of Supervisors and township staff to post online.

ii. Proposed Grasslands Ordinance - Discuss Proposed Grasslands Ordinance alterations by Casey H.

- All new edits should be tailored to a potentially new solicitor.
- A question was raised about whether the protection up to 25% of the total property would be separately preserved, or count towards the obligated 35% open space requirement per select township zoning requirements.
- A few council members inquired about the potential to exceed the 35% open space cap and seek to include this protection on top of that requirement.
- It was noted that this protection would have to be carefully drafted to work with the various open space requirement percentages as set by the different zoning districts.
- Brett recommended that the wording within the ordinance be changed from "total area footprint" to "net lot area" in order to be consistent with other ordinances.
- Brett will take a look at the ordinance, and incorporate the revisions as shared by the group with some word tinkering.
- The ordinance will come back for review at the next meeting for a vote, and the decision to share with the township engineer and solicitor at that time.
- Vanessa mentioned that if the protection raises the maximum preserved space above 60% it could be problematic in restricting the number of units a developer is entitled to build based on lot sizes.
- The ordinance will need to be reviewed thoroughly to ensure it complies within the law.

b. 2026 projects

i. Troxel Meadow

- Dave shared an update on the meadow project.
- The native grasses are starting to come in. Now is the time to wait and enjoy growing process.
- Dave has drafted new signs for the restoration projects that can be found in the restoration folder on the Google Drive.
- There are two options: 18x24 or 24x36. Both sizes would be printed on laminate metal. The prices for each sign respectively would run either 154\$ or 262\$.
- A question was asked about where will the signs be stored?
- The signs feature a QR code which would be more easily scannable on a larger format.
- The council would like to acquire a couple signs to have on standby for multiple projects. The council will explore potentially getting a discount if purchased in a bulk quantity.
- The signs are 3mm single sided with grommets for pole mounting.
- The signs would face out towards roads.
- Troxel meadow stands as a "proof of concept" for larger projects.
- More permanent signs will be installed later on once the project is completed to memorialize the work.
- The council would like to add a bench too.

ii. Bustard Rd. No Mow

- There are no major updates on this item. Drew has not gotten back to Dave yet regarding the fall presentation. Drew has evaluated the space and says that it is in decent shape. It will not need as intensive of a treatment as Troxel. Drew will spot treat the Bradford pears and other invasives come June or July.
- The EAC is looking to rename Bustard Road No Mow to a better name. The EAC is looking for suggestions to bring to board based on historical significance. Liberty meadow? Bustard family farm meadow? Apple meadow? Bustard meadow?
- The EAC performed some brief research into the history of the Bustard family. The EAC looked to identify where the Bustard family farm was located - was it situated by the meadow, or further down past fishers park?
- The EAC agreed simply on "Bustard Meadow" as their recommendation. Vanessa to bring up the name change to the other supervisors.
- Dave signed the proposal for Drew to treat bustard meadow twice. These treatments are budgeted on the books for 2,000\$ and 1,000\$ during the year.

iii. OSPAC/EAC collaboration on subdivision review

- OPSAC will be making a presentation to the Board of Supervisors tomorrow night. More work and updates have been made to their presentation. The proposed idea has been dubbed "Hilltop Grayson Green." These ideas have been presented to the developers. Pinnacle didn't believe there was enough room for the ideas. OSPAC believes the retention basins should be moved around in favor of open space considerations. The Walton Farm developers have not seemed open to change having already been given the supervisors' blessing. The plan features trails through the forest. OSPAC was informed to go to the supervisors first before presenting to the planning commission for the sake of speedy visibility on the idea. Pinnacle currently has no plan for recreation spaces as required by the township zoning codes. The MRC district calls for 25% open space with 20% planned and designated for active recreation use.

iv. Towamencin Day - 5/30/2026

- Bruce, Dave, Corina (afternoon hours only), and Donna (early hours before 4 only) will all support running the table.
- The table will feature native plant information.
- There has been no word from David Brothers Nursery for tree plantings.
- Birdtown will have a table with crafts and information.
- The EAC is awaiting information from Katie regarding the availability of tables and chairs.
- Bruce has a friend Maggie who grows native plants and asked whether she would be able to support? She would not be able to sell her plants.
- Dave from Behmerwald's Nursery is unable to assist.
- Can the EAC provide deer resistant plant information?

- Donna will aim to contact David Brothers.

v. Workshops - Potentially Weeds Inc. in the fall and PWC - Donna H. to contact

- David is awaiting a date from Drew regarding his next presentation.
- Donna will contact the Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy regarding another workshop in the future.

7. New Business

a. Township resident Michael Ricci native plant presentation

- The presentation is still being put together and the EAC is awaiting more information. Michael wants to start a program promoting the planting of native trees and plants by families in the township.

b. Single-use plastic ban - Lois Ann Handrich and Joan Johnson

- Residents dropped off letters at the front desk of the administrative office. The residents were invited to come to a future meeting. Council members stated that there were "not many shops in the township that this would pertain to."

8. Treasurer's Report - David M.

- There has been no spending as of yet.
- A total of \$1800 has been set aside for 3 workshops.
- \$375 has been set aside for pollinator pollooza.
- There is an operational budget of \$650.
- There is a project budget of \$5,500 with \$3,000 of that amount already being spoken for.
- There is \$7,134 left to spend.
- \$934.28 was spent on bird houses.
- There is \$500 for operational support.

9. Township Supervisor/Manager Report - Vanessa G.

- The township passed a data center regulation ordinance. The township is required to allow for every legal use within zoning districts. The township can only regulate and not ban data centers as a permitted use. The passed ordinance provides groundwater restrictions, noise limitations, and energy usage regulations. The supervisors felt that it was important to implement basic protections first and will review the ordinance to provide updates in the future. The board is looking to lower the decibel requirements based on the type of frequency in those forthcoming changes. The Planning commission is set to re the changes and recommendations from the County. Bruce asked if we could lower the sound requirements for other businesses?
- The Board of Supervisors is voting to advertise the landscaping ordinance at tomorrow's meeting.

10. Next Meeting - 6/9/2026

11. Adjournment

