

Lansdale Borough Environmental Advisory Council

Draft Meeting Notes

January 12, 2023

Council Chambers, Borough Hall

Attendees: Sarah Batory, Rob Gladfelter, Beth Benyishay, Connie Lezenby, David Campolongo

Associate Members: Deb Faulkner

Staff Liaison: John Ernst

The January public meeting of the Lansdale Borough Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) began at 6:30 pm. Beth Benyishay welcomed the members and introduced the agenda.

Meeting Minutes

Members needed additional time to review the meeting minutes, so this item was moved to next month.

2023 Officer Positions

Beth announced that she will be stepping down from the EAC in March 2023. John noted that two letters of interest to join the commission were submitted and would be reviewed by the applications committee. There will be 1 vacancy for a full member and 2 officer vacancies (Secretary, Chair). These officers can come from within the current group or new members. Lansdale Borough will share the vacancy announcement on Social media.

Ready for 100

The committee reviewed the updated draft of the resolution. Connie will share the updated draft resolution language with Andy Krauss for feedback. Once that feedback is received Connie will look to present to the Electric Committee.

Active Transportation Plan

Rob updated the Commission on discussions ongoing with Public Works and raised the potential for seeking funding from PA WalkWorks to do an active transportation study. There was an agreement to look into the landscape here (including with MontCo planning commission) and provide an update for the next meeting.

2022 Review

Beth gave a summary of some of the EAC's key actions in 2022. This included an Earth Day event hosted jointly with the Parks Department that included a park clean up, tree planting, plant swap, nature walk and connections with local green vendors, participation in 3 first friday events, and a successful October event on Bat Education. The EAC also ended 2022 with a sold draft resolution on renewable energy to take forward in 2023.

Potential Future Events

EAC Members discussed potential future events, including:

- An event on Energy Efficiency for residences
- A potential spring event on Rain Barrels
- An event focused on bees and bee houses
- A June event focused on a bat release
- Engagement with North Penn ENACT club to build larger bat houses for bat release event

Don Atkiss also joined the EAC meeting to share information on St John's creation Stewards and opportunities to partner, including potentially on an event focused on rose care or making butterfly habitats

Old Business

Rob reported that he took a tour of the wastewater management facility and was excited about the work being done there with support of the council and Township Manager. He noted possible future projects that EAC could help with including reducing mowing costs, limiting damage from mowing, and planting non-mow groundcover. There were also a few updates on personnel and contracting:

- A bid is out on a new mowing contractor
- Public Works will have two new positions as well

There was a discussion on municipal waste management and some interest in exploring this process as an EAC, as well as updates on the Main Street Streetscape project.

The meeting ended at 7:45 PM. The next meeting of the EAC will be held on February 16, 2023, at 6:30 in Borough Council Chambers.