Newtown Borough Environmental Advisory Council
June 9, 2025 Minutes
Council Chambers 23 N. State St. Newtown PA 18940 and Zoom

Members present: Katherine Borish, Pat Foster, Tim Markey (Co-chair), Samantha McGraw, Julia Woldorf (Council Liaison)

Members not in attendance: Glenn Beasly, Bob Mirales, Summer Bound

1. Review agenda: The agenda was reviewed with no changes.

2. Approve minutes: Katherine made the motion, and Pat seconded the motion to approve the May 12, 2025 minutes. All voted in favor.

3. Nicole Rodowicz - TMA Bucks Presentation: Nicole provided an overview of their group, which has a primary focus on air quality. This is a free program, and their organization can help with grant writing once we become a member (cost is 10 cents per population for membership with the TMA). A form is available online that the Borough can fill out to join the air quality partnership. Julia will do some research on how becoming an air quality partner with the TMA could benefit the EAC before putting a request before Council. We can consider allocating EAC funds in the future to help support our participation and air quality education and outreach initiatives.

4. EAC Priorities for 2025

   a. Official Map: Julia needs to contact council members to determine who might be interested in joining this committee. No action needed from the EAC at this time.

   b. Sustainable Landscaping: Reminder to complete the survey. Tim will follow up with Judy to make sure it is included in the Borough monthly E-News. Tim will also ask about adding something about the survey to Newtown Experience's social media.

   c. Climate Action Plan (CAP): Official kickoff will be in July. Consider if we want to do any public promotion about the kickoff to help build interest/awareness.

   d. Storm Sewer Decals: This project is ongoing. If anyone sees spots that need new decals, let Patrick know. We can consider sending out the map of the storm drains marked to the public to inform them of our efforts.

5. Borough Council Update

   a. On June 26 there will be a presentation by the planning firm about the pedestrian bridge.

   b. Julia read the motion requesting the Borough to require the use of electric lawn equipment in its operations. The Borough is interested but would like more research to be done, such as identifying companies using all electric lawn equipment, other model municipalities, etc., before moving forward.

c. The Borough is replacing all incandescent streetlights on State Street with LEDs. Since this was part of our PECO grant proposal that was not received, Julia indicated she will try to find out who received the grant and what the project was for.

d. There is a meeting on June 18, 6:00pm at the Chancellor Center to discuss the PECO utility replacement project.

e. Brief discussion about writing additional articles – many thanks to Katherine for continuing to do so! Recommendation to submit/post articles to the Neighbor News which is part of the Patch platform. This section features individual posts, rather than official story submissions.

6. New Business

a. Single Use Plastics Ordinance: There was a question if Craig followed up with businesses reminding them of the ordinance, as well as those who received extensions. This was not completed by the meeting but it was indicated that he will perform the follow-up.

b. Newtown Welcome Day: Lots of traction. Reusable bags, water bottles, and stormwater material were given out. Patrick will follow up with Judy to make sure she is aware of the stormwater outreach performed to help support our reporting requirements.

c. Newtown Township EAC: Katherine indicated that she would be meeting up with them to see how to keep the collaboration conversation going.

7. Public Comment: None.

8. Next Newtown Borough EAC meeting will be Monday, July 14, 2025, 7:00 pm at the Council Chambers and via Zoom.

9. Motion to Adjourn: Pat made the motion to adjourn, and Samantha seconded with all in favor and the meeting was adjourned.

For the Council,

Samantha A. McGraw

Sharefile folder for minutes