

**Newtown Borough Environmental Advisory Council**  
May 12, 2025 Minutes  
Council Chambers 23 N. State St. Newtown PA 18940 and Zoom

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

**Member of the Public:** Summer Bound

1. Review agenda: The agenda was reviewed with no changes.
2. Approve minutes: Katherine made the motion, and Glenn seconded the motion to approve the April 14, 2025 minutes. All voted in favor.
3. EAC Secretary: Since Gerard resigned from the EAC, Samantha offered to take the meeting minutes until August.
4. EAC Vacancy: Summer Bound submitted their volunteer application to join the EAC. Their appointment will be on the agenda for the next council meeting. Possibly 1-2 other prospective EAC candidates.
5. EAC Priorities for 2025
  - a. Official Map: Council is interested in pursuing this and the solicitor will put together a memo. There will likely be a subcommittee that forms to work more closely on its development, potentially including representatives from the EAC, Planning Board, Recreation Board, etc.
  - b. Sustainable Landscaping: The survey went live and will be open until the end of August. It will be included in the bi-annual newsletter, and Judy will be asked to include it in the Borough's next e-news. There is also a flyer available for promotional purposes.
  - c. Climate Action Plan (CAP): Tim will be meeting with PennState on May 15 to find out what additional information is needed from the Borough and vice versa. Newtown Township will not be involved in the Borough's CAP development. PennState students will gather data over the summer with full completion of the work in the fall. Once that is finished, we can analyze the data and decide how to move forward.
  - d. Storm Sewer Decals: Pat is making replacements when he sees them and will relay those updates to Tim so the map can be updated to indicate which storm sewers have been completed.
6. Other Topics:
  - a. Debrief on Landscaping Event: 38 people attended. There was a lot of positive feedback related to the overview of "homegrown" planting, and attendees felt it was an inspiring event. Publicity for this event was mostly "grassroots", and the committee discussed exploring other partnerships in the future. Katherine offered to write articles to continue engagement on this topic and give additional publicity to the EAC. The presentation was

recorded and should still be available to view on the council's YouTube channel. Future recommendations included shortening the program to a maximum of 1.5 hours and buying large quantities of flower seeds to be given out during events.

- b. Welcome Day: Discussion about having sustainable landscaping flyers available. Summer will drop off water bottles for Pat to give out.
  - c. Overview of Transportation Management Association (TMA) Bucks: Tim provided an overview of TMA Bucks. They are focused on transportation improvement and providing education around more efficient transportation options. They engage in promoting National Air Quality Awareness week to help educate the public about ground-level ozone problems. Tim will reach out to them to see if they want to attend our June meeting and provide an overview.
  - d. Require Borough to Use Electric Lawn Equipment: As a continuation of the sustainable landscape discussion, members of the committee felt strongly that the Borough should take the first step in leading the transition from gas-powered to electric lawn equipment. Glenn recommended that all landscapers the Borough uses be required to use electric lawn equipment. Tim seconded this recommendation, and all were in favor. Julia said she will discuss this with the Manager, who would be the person to do the research and determine how to structure a request for proposals (RFP). Julia will confirm the current landscaping contract period. If the contract is more than \$25,000, then it must be publicly bid.
  - e. Future Articles/Promotions: Katherine offered to write articles to continue engagement on the topic of sustainable landscaping and give additional publicity to the EAC. One idea was to find residents that would like to talk about their transition to electric lawn equipment.
7. Borough Council Update: Julia provided an update on the bridge project. The contract has been approved with Howell Engineering and there will be a kickoff meeting this week with the Newtown Creek Coalition. A survey and design need to be completed before construction. There was discussion about what type of materials would be used for the bridge, and Glenn made the motion that the EAC recommends to Council the use of environmentally friendly materials in the construction of the bridge. Tim seconded the motion, and all were in favor.
8. Other Topics:
- a. Single Use Plastics Ordinance: Katherine informed the committee she spoke to the Manager about some businesses in non-compliance. Craig indicated he would send a notice to all businesses reminding them of the ordinance.
  - b. Neighboring Town EACs: There was discussion about the value of partnering with neighboring towns on projects/initiatives and developing regional partnerships. Some possibilities include Patty Kleiner in Yardley and Karen, a watershed specialist.
  - c. Questions arose about the Borough's lack of electric vehicles. Julia indicated that the Borough bought a police vehicle last year and while they wanted to purchase an all-

electric model, there were issues with vehicle recalls and since they were in need of a vehicle, had to buy a gas powered vehicle.

9. Next Newtown Borough EAC meeting will be Monday, June 9, 2025, 7:00 pm at the Council Chambers and via Zoom. Bob indicated he will not be able to attend.
10. Motion to Adjourn: Glenn made the motion to adjourn, and Katherine seconded with all in favor and the meeting was adjourned.

For the Council,

Samantha A. McGraw

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