

Newtown Borough Environmental Advisory Council

September 16, 2024 Minutes

Council Chambers 23 N. State St. Newtown PA 18940 and Zoom

Members present: Glenn Beasley, Katherine Borish, Tim Markey (Co-chair), Samantha McGraw (Co-chair), Gerard O'Malley, Pat Foster, Julia Woldorf (Council Liaison). Absent: Bob Mirales

1. Review Agenda: The agenda was reviewed with no changes.
2. Approve Minutes: The following changes were noted for the minutes: correct for the date of Market Day from October 1 to October 5. The Frost Lane sidewalk completion deadline is June 30, 2026. The grand opening of Patriot's Park garden is September 29, from 1-3pm. Glenn made the motion, and Katherine seconded the motion to approve the August 12 minutes with the amendments above. Patrick abstained – the rest of the members present were in favor to approve the amended minutes.
3. Single-Use Plastics Ordinance Implementation:
 - a. Enforcement: Concerns about how the ordinance will be enforced were raised. Julia will reach out to Craig about how the progress of the ordinance will be monitored. Katherine will reach out to Newtown Township EAC to see how they're enforcing their ordinance.
 - b. Extensions: EAC chairs recommended extensions for two requests to Craig (Home Tonics and Priorities for Her). Tim visited Home Tonics to see what types of bags they were using. The bags don't meet our definition of a reusable bag in our ordinance and recommended an extension to Craig. Julia will reach out to Craig to learn what follow up has been done with these businesses regarding their request for an extension.
 - c. Council decided to wait until the exemption period ends on March 17, 2024, to determine whether any amendments to the ordinance will be considered.
 - d. Samantha provided an update on the pre-implementation survey results.
 - e. The decision was made to remove the single-use plastics ordinance from our list of main priorities since the implementation now falls on the Borough Council and Manager. There was other discussion about how the EAC could help with ongoing education and outreach about the ordinance, such as possibly adding information to the October E-News about the availability of reusable bags at Borough Hall.
4. EAC Priorities for 2024 - Updates:
 - a. Single Trash Hauler: No updates. Julia will look speak with Craig about getting more information about recycling practices and materials accepted by haulers.
 - b. Official Map: No updates. Julia will send copy of official map to Gerard.
 - c. Sustainable Landscaping: Presentation to council went well, and they were receptive to the information presented. Samantha will follow up with other resources and information.
 - d. Climate Action Plan (CAP): Discussion about developing a CAP and any potential overlap with Blue Zones. These are two separate but complimentary initiatives. More information about the Blue Zones program for Bucks County will be available in November and the EAC can discuss the role of the Borough in this program once more information is available.

- e. Storm Sewer Decal Project: Tim will contact Patrick for adhesive information. The EAC has budget funds that can support the purchase of any additional adhesive. A request to purchase the adhesive would need to be submitted to Craig.
5. Upcoming Events:
- a. Roads to Removal: Virtual event; Tim signed up to attend the afternoon and will report to the group on any interesting/relevant topics.
 - b. Market Day October 5.
6. Borough Council Liaison Update:
- a. Borough Newsletter: Reminder that October 1 is the deadline to submit an article for the Borough newsletter. Katherine volunteered to write an article about how to have a sustainable holiday.
 - b. 2025 Meeting Schedule: Julia noted that the Council is in the process of finalizing the 2025 meeting schedule, and suggested to the EAC that we request to have our meetings remain the second Monday of each month, and not be rescheduled to a different week should the Planning Board need to move their meeting due to holidays. The EAC agreed with this recommendation, and Julia will make the request to Judy/council.
 - c. 2025 Budget: Julia noted the EAC needs to submit its budget request for 2025 by the beginning of October. Samantha will prepare a draft budget for review.
 - d. PECO Grant: Application deadline October 24, 2024. There was a discussion about what types of projects we might consider submitting. Julia will keep us informed of any progress to apply.
 - e. Patriots Park: Planting will take place on September 21 and the park will have its grand opening on September 29.
7. New Business:
- a. Glenn shared information about an article talking about the removal of beef from diets. This encouraged some additional discussion about the Blue Zones and other ways the EAC can engage with the community through education and outreach.
 - b. Joint Meeting with Newtown Township: Possibility of the two EACs meeting in December or January. Julia will speak with Craig about whether the meeting needs to be advertised as a public meeting.
8. Public Comment: No public comment
9. Confirm next EAC Meeting: Next will be Monday, October 14, 2024, 7:00 pm at the Council Chambers and via Zoom. Katherine will not be able to attend.
10. Motion to Adjourn: Tim made the motion to adjourn, and Glenn seconded with all in favor and the meeting adjourned.

For the Council,
Samantha McGraw
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