

**Newtown Borough Environmental Advisory Council**  
October 14, 2024 Minutes  
Council Chambers 23 N. State St. Newtown PA 18940 and Zoom

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

1. Review agenda The agenda was reviewed with no changes.
2. Approve minutes: Gerard made the motion and Glenn seconded the motion to approve the September 16, 2024 minutes. All voted in favor.
3. Public to be heard: Todd McGonagal the proprietor of The Newtown Ice House inquired about the possibility of adjustments to the Single Use Plastics ordinance. He was informed that the council will evaluate in 6 months. He has some unique issues associated with his current inventory of containers and as a seasonal business they are closed.
4. EAC Priorities for 2024 - The EAC discussed the status of EAC priorities:
  - a. Official Map: Gerard discussed the concept of the Official Map which was one of the priority actions from the 2022 Open Space and Connectivity Plan. He pulled together the sections of the plan that outlined the description of the official map and the properties that were listed as potential additions to a potential Newtown Borough Official Map ([Link](#)). The EAC reviewed the list of previously identified properties that potentially could be included in an official map. Those include:
    - i. South State Street Pocket Park
    - ii. Delta School Property
    - iii. Barclay House Pocket Park
    - iv. CVS (land that is undeveloped)
    - v. Front of Newtown Artesian Water Company PropertyPotential additional properties to add to the above list include the rear of the property at the corner of North State and Jefferson (Ice House) and 507 S State Street (former Newtown Beer distributors). Gerard made a motion and Glenn seconded to bring the concept of implementing an official map to the Council. All agreed. The next opportunity will be at the Work Session on November 6th.
  - b. Sustainable landscaping: Glenn informed the EAC that there is an interesting Connections podcast episode from Marty Moss-Coane. The episode description is: "Ecologist Douglas Tallamy talks about an approach to conservation that starts with letting your yard grow wild with native plants to save wildlife in 'Nature's Best Hope.'" Link to the episode is [Here](#).
  - c. Investigate creation of a Newtown Borough Climate Action Plan: No update.
  - d. Storm Sewer Decals: Tim informed the EAC that the decal adhesive is still good and will coordinate a project to install the decals. Tim will give EAC notice on timing in case members are available to volunteer to help with the installation. Julia to give Tim the storm sewer map and he will investigate the current state of existing decals
  - e. Single-use plastics ordinance: The borough manager will follow-up with businesses on status of exemptions. Council will determine if any adjustments to the ordinance is needed after 6 months.

5. Other Topics:
  - a. 2025 Budget Update: Samatha reported that a total of \$1000 was requested for the EAC in the budget. \$500 for screening of Earth Day film, \$425 for other education, \$75 for decal project
  - b. Recycling Haulers: Samatha reported that she continues to follow-up with haulers to get additional details and information that might help to educate our borough residents. Julia mentioned a Bucks County Task Force meeting on this topic that was held recently which discussed the changes to the recycling business and that many municipalities had the same need for clarity on the general topic of recycling.
  - c. Future Article Suggestions: The EAC will have a discussion at the next meeting on ideas and schedule for future articles for the newsletter or other media. Please come with ideas.
6. Borough Council Update: Julia updated the EAC on several topics. 1. The Patriot Park is now officially open. 2. Julia will investigate and report back on the status of the PECO grant.
7. New Business: None
8. Next Newtown Borough EAC meeting will be Monday, November 11, 2024, 7:00 pm at the Council Chambers and via Zoom.

Pat made the motion to adjourn and Glenn seconded with all agreeing and the meeting was adjourned.

For the Council,

Gerard O'Malley

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