

Newtown Borough Environmental Advisory Council
November 11, 2024 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 (Co-chair), Bob Mirales, Gerard O'Malley, Julia Woldorf (Council Liaison)

1. Review agenda The agenda was reviewed with no changes.
2. Approve minutes: Glenn made the motion and Pat seconded the motion to approve the October 14, 2024 minutes. All voted in favor.
3. EAC Priorities for 2024 - The EAC discussed the status of EAC priorities:
 - a. Official Map: Julia reported that she introduced the topic of the Official Map to Council at their November work session. Council are interested in pursuing but due to current priorities it will be investigated in the January/February 2025 timeframe. They will determine the scope and the solicitor will guide the Council through the process.
 - b. Sustainable landscaping: Bob reported that he has been focused on recruiting members for the working team and has two members including Glenn. Bob is considering a survey to residents in order to collect their thoughts, ideas, and priorities related to sustainable landscaping.
 - c. Investigate creation of a Newtown Borough Climate Action Plan: No update.
 - d. Single-use plastics ordinance: No updates. EAC will revisit in January to assess implementation progress and any ideas for adjustment.
 - e. Storm Sewer Decals: Tim reported that 42 decals were installed since our last meeting. These were installed mostly north of Washington Avenue. Judy is ordering additional decals and these will be installed in the spring.
4. Other Topics:
 - a. Recycling Haulers: Samantha reported that she continues to follow-up with haulers to get additional details and information that might help to educate our borough residents.
 - b. EAC Public Outreach: The EAC discussed ideas for future articles for the newsletter or other media. Katherine's article on single-use plastics was recently published in the Gazette. Some potential topics for future articles include recycling, sustainable landscaping, open space, and New Year's resolutions for sustainability. Katherine and Sam volunteered to start to write an article on food waste. Target outlets for future articles include the Newtown Patch, Bucks County Herald, Newtown Gazette, the Beacon, and the borough newsletter. The EAC also discussed the concept of social media as a potential tool for public outreach. Julia informed the EAC that the borough does not have a social media policy and she advised the EAC not to pursue it at this point in time. Of course members should feel free to post information on their personal accounts.
5. Borough Council Update: Julia updated the EAC on several topics. 1. The 2025 budget which includes \$1000 for EAC will be voted on in December. 2. The Frost Lane pedestrian bridge grant was approved for ~\$1 million. The Borough is applying for another \$1 million grant from the Local Share Account (LSA) to install sidewalks along the Edgeboro curve 3.

The borough is applying for a \$50k grant from PECO to replace the State Street lights with LEDs. We will get notified in the spring if granted.

6. New Business: Katherine discussed the potential for a joint meeting with the Newtown Township EAC. She will investigate if the joint meeting can be held at our regularly scheduled meeting in December.
7. Next Newtown Borough EAC meeting will be Monday, December 9, 2024, 7:00 pm at the Council Chambers and via Zoom.

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

For the Council,

Gerard O'Malley

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