

Newtown Borough Environmental Advisory Council
February 10, 2025 Minutes
Council Chambers 23 N. State St. Newtown PA 18940 and Zoom

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

- A. Amendments to Agenda: The agenda was reviewed with no changes.
- B. Special joint meeting of the Newtown Borough and Newtown Township EACs. The Newtown Township EAC Members were present at this joint meeting.
 - A. Member introductions completed.
 - B. Newtown Township EAC priorities – Township EAC priorities include: Roberts Ridge native plant garden; public education surrounding EAP standards for drinking water, PHOS standards and water quality; shade tree and tree protection ordinance; high school native plant garden; Earth Day/Arbor Day joint event; gas powered landscaping equipment elimination; tree bank ordinance; pollinator garden; community solar; Bird Town Pennsylvania; addressing development concerns near a creek by a Borough developer; and a solar installation at the municipal complex.
 - C. Newtown Borough EAC priorities – the Borough discussed updates regarding its single-use plastics ordinance; recycling interests; sustainable landscaping; Earth Day/Arbor Day joint event (interest in securing Doug Tallame as a speaker but speaker cost too high); and Climate Action Plan research.
 - D. The group discussed promoting an event at Del Val that Doug Tallame is speaking at in April. The Township also expressed an interest in developing a Climate Action Plan (CAP) through the Penn State School of Sustainability. Tim confirmed that once signed up, Penn State will provide students who will do research in the community to develop the plan. The CAP looks at greenhouse gases (GHGs) in the community, and the students will put together an emissions inventory. The plan can then focus on mitigation. Once selected, the process of developing the plan will start over the summer and conclude in the fall. The students will then make a presentation to the council. There is no cost to the Borough to participate in the program. Tim will share Peter Buck's information (who runs the program at Penn State), with the Township. Borough plans to present this to the council at the March 5 work session to garner approval to move forward. Only six municipalities will be selected to participate this year.
 - E. Next Steps - Samantha will also develop a Borough EAC roster to distribute to the Township.
- C. Public Comment: Charlie Foyer, Newtown Township resident, interested in getting involved with Township EAC, and expressed support for collaboration between the Borough and Township EACs. Ray Post, Middletown Township resident, raised concerns about the environmental impact of salt on the roadways and suggested alternatives like sand or gravel. There was some discussion about the joint Newtown Sewer Authority and proposed

sewer plant, with general encouragement for EAC members to attend Sewer Authority meetings to become more familiar with the project.

D. Newtown Borough EAC Meeting

- A. Approve January 13, 2025 Minutes: Katherine made the motion and Bob seconded the motion to approve the minutes. All voted in favor. Tim abstained.
- B. February Items
 - a. Bucks County West Nile Surveillance – We will move forward with supporting this without any changes to what was submitted last year.
- C. Council Update
 - a. Official Map – Council is interested but they need more information, and it will be discussed further at the March work session. The Newtown Commons property development was agreeable to adding the request for a trail. This is a good example where if the official map were in place, it would have given more power/support for the trail proposal. Council also wanted the DCNR document reviewed and wanted to know how costly it could be.
 - b. Plastics Research – on March work session agenda. If EAC members have any comments/observations to send to Council, let Craig know. EAC members expressed interest in knowing how the Borough would handle the Newtown Ice House extension request submitted in the fall.
 - c. Climate Action Plan – on the March 5 work session agenda.
 - d. Julia will forward a Bucks County Conservation District email.
- D. New Business
 - a. EAC 2024 Annual Report – Samantha asked for any changes/edits by end of the week.
 - b. Sustainable Landscaping Article – Bob will reach out to the relevant media outlets for distribution.
 - c. Sewer Authority Presentation – the group decided that it would be good to invite them to speak at the March meeting.
- E. Next Newtown Borough EAC meeting will be Monday, March 10, 2025, 7:00pm at the Council Chambers and via Zoom.
- F. Motion to Adjourn: Tim made the motion to adjourn and Bob seconded; all in favor.

For the Council,

Samantha A. McGraw

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