

Newtown Borough Environmental Advisory Council
March 9, 2026 Meeting Minutes
Council Chambers 23 N. State St. Newtown PA 18940 and Zoom

Members Present: Glenn Beasley, Katherine Borish, Summer Bound, Pat Foster, Tim Markey (Chair), Bob Mirales, Julia Woldorf (Council Liaison)

Absent - Samantha McGraw

Public: John Wathen

1. Amendments to the Agenda - none
2. Approve January Minutes - Tim made the motion and Bob seconded, all approved.
3. EAC Priorities for 2026
 - a. Sustainable Landscaping Research - Bob is researching several ordinances about restricting gas leaf blowers as well as a Pennsylvania model ordinance. After much discussion about the feasibility of a gas leaf blower ordinance, the EAC decided to move forward with drafting an ordinance that would include lessons learned from other communities and approaches to public acceptance. This would be followed by a presentation to Borough Council to gauge their support.
 - b. Newtown Borough Climate Action Plan - the Penn State portion of the Climate Action Plan is nearing completion with potential action items across transportation, residential, and commercial sectors. The presentation of the Newtown Borough Climate Action Plan will be made at the April 15 Borough Council meeting at the Chancellor Center. The EAC will review the plan in detail and further develop the action items.
 - c. Native Plants – There will be a container gardening event on May 16 at Patriot’s Park in partnership with 2 -3 Master Gardeners, creating four containers. The four containers will be displayed in front of Borough Hall after the event. We did not receive a grant from the Pennsylvania Native Plant Society to help fund this initiative. There was discussion about the number of attendees at the event. Initial thought was 20 with each being charged \$20. Attendance may be increased to no more than 30 if Katherine feels that number is not detrimental to participation. Pat offered to help find some funding through local businesses. Finally, Katherine inquired about online registration and payments through the Borough website.
 - d. Newtown Borough, in partnership with the Newtown Theatre, will feature the Extraordinary Caterpillar movie at Newtown Theatre on Earth Day, April 22, with a panel discussion on native plants afterwards. Katherine will follow up with the Rec Board about coordinating with them, on Arbor Day. Julia suggested possibly sponsoring a Native Plants Planter Contest for Borough residents.

- e. Storm Sewer round decal project - ongoing
4. Borough Council Update
 - a. Meeting will be on March 10 for the native plants grant presentation by Summer.
 - b. Bid for landscaping services, with an electric option will be considered by Borough Council at the March work session. If approved, as expected, we can alert sustainable landscapers to the RFP.
 - c. Julia updated us on the EV charging ordinance that is in progress.
 5. New Business
 - a. Confirmed that Tim will participate in Bucks County Municipal Sustainability Dialogues on March 12, and Summer will attend Lawn to Meadow Training Event on March 24.
 - b. Confirmed that Glenn, Katherine, Summer, Bob, and Tim will participate in meeting of Local EACs hosted by the Yardley Borough EAC on April 25. This will be held at the Lower Makefield Twp building 10-12pm.
 6. Public Comment
 7. Confirm Next EAC Meeting - Monday, April 13, 2026 at 7:00pm
 8. Motion to Adjourn
 - a. Tim made the motion to adjourn, and Bob seconded with all in favor and the meeting was adjourned.

For the Council,

Tim Markey