

**Bethlehem Environmental Advisory Council
General Meeting
January 7, 2021**

Attendees: EAC Members: Lynn Rothman (Chair), Mike Topping (Vice Chair), Elisabeth Cichonski (Secretary), Beth Behrend, Ben Guthrie, Ben Felzer, Brian Nicas Mike Albanese, Jane Cook (Bethlehem Backyards for Wildlife), Katharine Targett Gross (Lehigh University), Al Wurth (Lehigh University), Kathy Fox (Bethlehem Food Co-Op)

Call to Order – 7:02 PM

1. Elections

- a. **Vice Chair** – Mike Topping nominated by Beth, seconded by Ben F., elected unanimously.
- b. **Secretary** – Ben Guthrie nominated by Lynn, seconded by Mike, elected unanimously.

2. Approval of minutes (December): Motion to approve minutes made by Ben F, seconded by Beth, approved unanimously.

3. Place citizens' comments on agenda: None

4. Chair's comments & amendments to agenda

- Tara Zrinski reached out to Lynn to let us know that a public hearing has been scheduled for Penn East pipeline and the public can submit comments. Lynn provided a link to the DEP website.
<https://www.dep.pa.gov/Business/ProgramIntegration/Pennsylvania-Pipeline-Portal/Pages/PennEast.aspx>

5. Board comments and announcements: None

6. Committee reports - None

7. External committee reports

- a. **City Council** - None
- b. **Planning & Zoning** - None

8. Unfinished business

a. Climate Action Plan

- The EAC members reviewed an overview of all strategies where the EAC has been identified as part of the implementation process in the draft plan.
- There are several tasks that may make good student projects for Lehigh students, possibly with guidance and support of EAC.
- Since there are many items where the EAC will contribute, there was general agreement that subcommittees should take the lead on key implementation steps that were related to the committee's mission.

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9. New business

a. Priorities & Projects for 2021

- **Committees:** Lynn, Ben G., and Ben F. are interested in joining Green Committee. Beth and Elisabeth have been working with Katharine on potential student projects this spring via the Waste Reduction Committee.
- **Partner with Lehigh Students** – See above discussion under CAP.

b. Speakers for 2021

- Representative from Planning Department
- Speaker on permaculture (suggested by Kathy)
- Bee Keeper - Beth will reach out

- c. Chimney Swifts** – There was general agreement that EAC should write a letter of support for this project, and for future chimney swift towers in our parks. Lynn will draft a letter with input from Brian.

10. Agenda for next meeting (February 4)

11. Adjourn