

**Bethlehem Environmental Advisory Council  
General Meeting  
February 4, 2021**

**Attendees:** EAC Members: Lynn Rothman (Chair), Mike Topping (Vice Chair), Ben Guthrie (Secretary), Beth Behrend, Ben Felzer, Brian Nicas  
Mike Albanese, Jane Cook (Bethlehem Backyards for Wildlife), Katharine Targett Gross (Lehigh University), Al Wurth (Lehigh University), Dick Poot (Borough of Coopersburg)

**Call to Order – 7:03 PM**

- 1. Approval of minutes (January):** Motion to approve minutes made by Ben F, seconded by Brian, approved unanimously.
- 2. Place citizens' comments on agenda:**
  - Al Wurth – Snow Emergency Routes have alternate side parking. Could be helpful on other streets on the near east side or other dense neighborhoods.
- 3. Chair's comments & amendments to agenda**
  - EAC Network Conference coming up on April 10.
  - Chimney Swifts are now officially the City Bird of Bethlehem
  - Jennie Gilrain received a grant from Lehigh Valley Engaged Humanities Consortium for three part forum about swifts: Feb 17, Mar 11, April 21. More information in BAPL website. Lynn will be one of the panelists at the third event.
- 4. Board comments and announcements**
  - Mike – The developer at the intersection of Center Street & Dewberry Avenue has won a court case that may allow him to move forward with a development plan for a psychiatric hospital. EAC may monitor future development plans due to potential impact on Monocacy Creek.
  - Brian – EAC participated in a cleanup at the intersection of Union Boulevard & Old York Road. Brian recently reached out to DEP about ongoing dumping on the site. There is a potential environmental harm to the creek.
  - Brian – EAC should monitor opportunities for green infrastructure and/or rooftop solar as development plans move forward for former Boyd Theater site.
  - Brian – Rose Garden update – Mount Airy Neighborhood Assoc. (MANA) Project – excavation work for future paths is ongoing. Project is going well, but they had to cut down three trees that were in poor health. Plan is for trees to be replaced in spring. Gardening Project – grant money was used to purchase plants. Planting? events will be coming up in the spring.
- 5. Committee reports**
  - **Bethlehem Backyards for Wildlife (Jane)** – No schedule yet for Hoover Mason Trestle or other spring events.
  - **Waste Reduction Committee (Beth)** – Previous work on plastic bag plan was pre-empted by state. David Masur of PennEnvironment reached out to EAC to

see if municipalities would be interested in legal action to resolve this issue. There was agreement among members that we should forward more information to City Solicitor and request their review to see if City should be involved.

**6. External committee reports**

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

**7. Unfinished business**

a. **Climate Action Plan**

- Sustainability Officer position may be included in next year's budget. More planning is needed at City Council level.
- Beth has been in contact with students wishing to get involved in CAP.
- Bethlehem Interface Clergy Group is interested in participating as well.

- b. **DCNR Grants** – Lynn reached out via email to City officials. Lynn will follow up with the City.

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**8. New business**

- a. **Mayoral Election** – EAC may wish to invite mayoral candidates to attend a future EAC meeting.

**9. Agenda for next meeting (March 4)**

- a. Lynn will reach out to Planning Department to invite a representative to speak at an upcoming meeting.

**10. Adjourn** - Meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM