

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

Attendees: EAC Members: Lynn Rothman (Chair), Ben Guthrie (Secretary), Beth Behrend, Ben Felzer, Brian Nicas
Mike Albanese, Jane Cook (Bethlehem Backyards for Wildlife & Monocacy Creek Watershed Assoc.), Al Wurth (Lehigh University),
Corrine Kavounas (resident), Ben Murphy-Schmehl (Lehigh University), Josie Miserendino, Deb Rosene (Whitehall EAC).

Call to Order – 7:01 PM

- 1. Approval of minutes (February):** Motion to approve minutes made by Ben F, seconded by Beth, approved unanimously.
- 2. Tracy Samuelson, Assistant Director of Planning and Zoning – Postponed**
- 3. Place citizens' comments on agenda:**
 - Al Wurth – There was a recent meeting regarding a proposed development project on S. New Street, adjacent to greenway. EAC submitted a comment letter on the proposal to the City.
 - Jane Cook – Upcoming forum on stormwater fees (April 1 and April 6) – please send questions to Jane in advance.
- 4. Chair's comments & amendments to agenda**
 - City requested a representative of the EAC on pedestrian bridge steering committee. Lynn and Brian expressed interest, pending schedule.
 - Several attendees recently attended the micro plastics presentation. The presentation was informative and others may wish to seek it out on the PennEnvironment facebook page.
- 5. Board comments and announcements**
- 6. Committee reports**
 - **Green Committee (Brian)** – Members of the committee recently met with City Forester (David Shaffer). The results of the recently completed tree inventory are now available on the City's website (www.bethlehem-pa.gov/Public-Works/Urban-Forestry). Separately, the city forester has obtained a grant for 800 saplings of various native trees. Brian posted about the opportunity on the EAC Facebook page and several people/groups have expressed interest in volunteering. Please send ideas for potential locations to Brian. Ben F. also pointed out that David Shaffer requested help in identifying native tree inventory from local nurseries as a resource for our residents. He advertised this opportunity to the Lehigh Eco-Reps.
 - **Citizens Traffic Advisory Council (CTAC)** – Ben G. will represent EAC at future meetings.

- **Bethlehem Backyards for Wildlife** – No updates
- **Waste Reduction Committee** – No updates

7. External committee reports

- a. **City Council** – No updates

8. Unfinished business

- a. **Climate Action Plan** – Three Lehigh University students applied for EAC internship positions. Kick-off meetings will be held shortly to review project objectives and develop syllabus.
- b. **Upcoming Municipal Election** – EAC will invite candidates for City Council or Mayor to attend the April EAC meeting and discuss environmental issues.
- c. **Logo** – EAC will reach out to local colleges to gauge interest in logo competition. Corrine will reach out to her contacts at Moravian College and Northampton Community College. Ben Murphy-Schmehl volunteered to reach out to contact at Lehigh University.
- d. **DCNR Grants** – Lynn spoke with Darlene Heller (Director Planning & Zoning). Ms. Heller said that when the various departments met, they discussed our email. The City has applied for DCNR grants in the past, for example for the Greenway and the Pedestrian Bridge Study. The grant runs through the Parks Department, which is short staffed and overwhelmed for this year.

9. New business

- a. **Monocacy Creek Clean-Up Day April 24** – EAC will join groups being organized by Monocacy Creek Watershed Association for cleanup at Sand Island Park. EAC logo will appear on event flyer.
- b. **Sustainable Opportunities Forum** – Allentown, Easton and Bethlehem EACs and the Alliance for Sustainable Communities will host a forum on April 22 at 7:00 pm. Forum is targeted to college students. Speakers will share volunteer experiences from local environmental organizations.
- c. **Martin Tower** – There is an upcoming public hearing regarding the project. To date, EAC has not received copies of the latest plans. Lynn will reach out to Planning Department to inquire.

10. Agenda for next meeting (April 1)

11. Adjourn - Meeting adjourned at 8:13 PM