

Bethlehem Environmental Advisory Council
General Meeting
May 6, 2021

Attendees: EAC Members: Lynn Rothman (Chair), Ben Guthrie (Secretary), Beth Behrend, Ben Felzer, Brian Nicas, Elisabeth Cichonski
Jane Cook (Bethlehem Backyards for Wildlife, Monocacy Creek Watershed Assoc.), Katharine Targett Gross (Lehigh University), Ben Murphy-Schmehl (Lehigh University), CJ Marina (Lehigh University), Al Wurth (Lehigh University), Tracy Samuelson.

Call to Order – 7:03 PM

- 1. Approval of minutes (April):** Motion to approve minutes made by Beth, seconded by Elisabeth approved unanimously.
- 2. Tracy Samuelson, Assistant Director of Planning and Zoning**
 - Tracy provided an overview of planning commission and land development processes.
 - Zoning Ordinance adopted in 2012. Site plan review guidelines are early in the process. There is also a tree conservation section that stipulates trees must be replaced.
 - The Planning Bureau is in the process of revising subdivision and land development ordinances. Tracy can provide a copy for EAC to review and potentially provide feedback in advance of workshop with Planning Commission this summer.
- 3. Place citizens' comments on agenda**
- 4. Chair's comments & amendments to agenda**
 - The April 22nd Volunteer Opportunities Forum hosted by the Allentown, Bethlehem & Easton EACs and the Alliance for Sustainable Communities went well.
- 5. Board comments and announcements**
 - Two Lehigh students (Ben and CJ) have been invited to speak at next month's EAC meeting about environmental justice and the Climate Action Plan.
- 6. Committee reports**
 - **Green Committee (Brian)** – City Forester will be overseeing planting of 350 trees near Saucon Creek at Saucon Park on May 8. Volunteers will be meeting Saturday at 9:00 AM.
 - **Bethlehem Backyards for Wildlife (Jane)** – Actively in the process of weeding. Jane will follow up with an email to announce upcoming weeding dates. On May 18 there will be a Penn State Extension webinar on the Hoover-Mason Trestle.

- **Monocacy Creek Watershed Association (Jane)** – Continuing to plant live stakes up and down the creek. Will be doing more this weekend. There will be an upcoming announcement on LV Greenways Grant.
- **Waste Reduction Committee** – No updates

7. External committee reports

- a. **City Council** – Lynn spoke at this week’s City Council meeting regarding the Martin Tower project.

8. Unfinished business

- a. **Pedestrian Bridge Working Group (Brian)** – No updates

9. New business

- a. There have been recent discussions of hosting another Lehigh Valley EAC Forum. Lynn will be meeting with representatives of other groups on May 13.

10. Agenda for next meeting (April 1)

- a. Two Lehigh students (Ben and CJ) have been invited to speak at next month’s EAC meeting about environmental justice and the Climate Action Plan.

11. Adjourn – Meeting adjourned at 8:17 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Ben Guthrie, Secretary