

**Bethlehem Environmental Advisory Council  
General Meeting  
September 2, 2021**

**Attendees:** EAC Members: Lynn Rothman (Chair), Ben Guthrie (Secretary), Beth Behrend, Ben Felzer, Brian Nicas, Elisabeth Cichonski  
Kathy Fox (Bethlehem Food Co-Op), Mike Albanese, Charissa West, Cathy Bailey, CJ Marina, Kendall O'Farrell, Jan Beatty (Bethlehem Township).

**Call to Order – 7:02 PM**

- 1. Approval of minutes (August):** Motion to approve minutes made by Ben F., seconded by Brian. Approved unanimously.
- 2. Chair's comments & amendments to agenda**
  - Tonight's scheduled presentation on anaerobic digesters was postponed at the request of the student presenters.
  - The Lehigh Valley EAC Network Forum is scheduled for Saturday, September 18<sup>th</sup> at Cedar Beach Park in Allentown.
  - Several local environmental organizations are organizing a climate rally on Payrow Plaza on September 24.
  - A new free weekly newsletter is launching titled Lehigh Valley Green ([andrewittchen.substak.com](http://andrewittchen.substak.com)).
  - An intern from Alliance for Sustainable Communities reviewed the Climate Action Plan and local ordinances and prepared a report with recommendations.
- 3. Place citizens' comments on agenda**
  - None
- 4. Board comments and announcements**
  - Ben F. will be speaking at an extreme weather press event on Wednesday, September 8<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 to 1:00 in Historic Bethlehem Industrial Quarter.
  - Ben F. has been looking at local discharge data and climate models with an eye on how climate change may impact local flooding.
  - Beth provided an overview of recent community concerns regarding street trees in the Edgeboro neighborhood. At this time it appears the issues has been resolved.
- 5. Committee reports**
  - a. **Energy Committee (Elisabeth)** – Recently reviewed materials on municipal solar.
  - b. **Waste Reduction Committee (Beth)** – The committee has been working on an updated proposal for a single-use plastic bag ban. This is an update to previous work in 2019. The recommended ordinance is based on guidance from Penn Environment.
  - c. **Green Committee (Brian)** – No updates at this time.

**6. External committee reports**

- a. **Monocacy Creek Watershed Association (MCWA)** – The EAC will be joining MCWA for a stream cleanup on September 25th at 9:00 AM. A flyer will be distributed this week and posted on the EAC Facebook page.
- b. **Lehigh Valley Bird Town Coalition** – Recently formed their own local steering group.
- c. **Planning and Zoning** – Lynn recently sent a few recent letters on behalf of the EAC regarding proposed development projects. All letters are posted on the EAC website.

**7. Unfinished business**

**8. New business**

- a. **Plastic Bag Ban** – Brian made a motion that we forward the proposed ordinance to ban plastic bags to City Council for their consideration. Seconded by Ben G. Approved unanimously.
- b. **Purple Air Monitor** – Ben F. is working with others at Lehigh University to investigate the possibility of installing air monitors at one or more locations throughout the city. Brian made a motion that the EAC should write a letter in support of installing an air monitor at a City building. Seconded by Beth. Approved unanimously.

**9. October 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting**

- a. Agenda

**10. Adjourn – Meeting adjourned at 8:18 PM**

Respectfully submitted,

Ben Guthrie, Secretary