

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

**Attendees:** EAC Members: Lynn Rothman (Chair), Mike Topping (Vice Chair), Ben Guthrie (Secretary), Beth Behrend, Ben Felzer, Brian Nicas, Kathy Fox (Bethlehem Food Co-Op), Anna Zawierucha, Alyssa Klinger, Morgan Murray, Marcie Lightwood, Josie Miserendino, Mark Harris, Gale Maleskey, Kathryn Goettle, Victoria Bastidas

**Call to Order – 7:05 PM**

- 1. Welcome**
- 2. Approval of minutes (November):** Motion to approve minutes made by Brian, seconded by Ben F. Approved unanimously.
- 3. Chair’s comments & amendments to agenda**
  - All EAC members and guests are invited to register for upcoming 2022 EAC Network Conference.
  - Green Drinks presentation by Solar United Neighbors is upcoming on Wednesday, December 8.
- 4. Place citizens’ comments on agenda**
  - Mark Harris – Update regarding recent paving of sections of Monocacy Way Trail.
  - Kathy Fox – Suggestion to have EAC members and other interested people to attend public meetings of City Council, Zoning Hearing Board, and Planning Commission to discuss Climate Action Plan and how it relates to decisions being made at the meetings.
- 5. Board comments and announcements**
  - Mike – Recently attended Lehigh Valley Watershed Coalition Event at Illick’s Mill. Opportunity to discuss returning to in-person meetings in the near future.
- 6. Biodigester Project: Lehigh University Students Alyssa Klinger, Morgan Murray, and Kathryn Goettle** – Project to design and implement a biodigester for dog waste at Monocacy Dog Park in Bethlehem.
- 7. Committee reports**
  - a. **Bethlehem Backyards for Wildlife** – No update.
  - b. **Waste Reduction Committee (Beth)** – No update.
  - c. **Green Committee (Brian)** – No update.
  - d. **Energy Committee (Elisabeth)** – Committee members (Brian, Elisabeth, and Lynn) recently met to discuss updates to Bethlehem’s solar ordinances. There is a follow-up meeting planned for January 14<sup>th</sup> with Brian Murphy from Penn State.

## **8. External committee reports**

- a. **Monocacy Creek Watershed Association (Written Report from Jane Cook)** – 18 volunteers helped plant 59 native trees and shrubs at the Gertrude Fox Conservation Area along the Monocacy Creek near Center Street and at Monocacy Way Trail downstream of Illick’s Mill. MCWA is in very preliminary planning stages with the Fish & Boat Commission to put in riparian buffer structures in that latter area.
- b. **Planning and Zoning** – EAC recently submitted letters regarding the proposed solar field at Lehigh University’s Goodman Campus and the proposed development at Third Street & Taylor Street.

## **9. Unfinished business**

- a. **Lehigh Spring Internships/Summer Fellowships (Ben F.)** – Credit/Funding is available for CAP-related internship/fellowship opportunities with the EAC. There are a few students who have expressed interest so far, with interest in the composting plan, green restaurant program, environmental justice, and urban forestry.
- b. **Camels Hump (Victoria Bastidas)** – Working with City to address stormwater runoff issues.
- c. **Pedestrian Bridge over Lehigh River (Brian)** – No update.

## **10. New business**

- a. **EAC Membership** – Three EAC members have expiring terms in January (Brian, Mike, Ben G.). Ben and Mike have expressed interest in remaining on the EAC. Brian will be stepping down, but is interested in remaining involved in subcommittees. Elisabeth is also stepping down due to time constraints and is also interested in remaining involved in subcommittees.

## **11. Agenda January 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting**

## **12. Adjourn – Meeting adjourned at 8:26 PM**

Respectfully submitted,

Ben Guthrie, Secretary