

**Bethlehem Environmental Advisory Council**  
**General Meeting**  
**January 2, 2020**

**Attendees:** EAC Members: Elisabeth Cichonski, Beth Behrend, Brian Nicas, Ben Guthrie, Ben Felzer (via Go-to Meeting).  
Martha Christine (Bethlehem Backyards for Wildlife [BBFW]), Kathy Fox (Bethlehem Food Co-Op), Brian Hillard (Sierra Club), Karen Berry, Donald Rockwell (Lehigh University), Peg Church (Care of Creation [MC]), Katharine Targett Gross (Lehigh University).

**Call To Order @ 7:03 PM.**

- 1. Welcome and introductions**
- 2. Approval of minutes (December):** Motion to approve the minutes made by Brian N., seconded by Ben G. and approved unanimously.
- 3. Place citizens' comments on agenda:** Brian H. and a small group are planning to meet to discuss creating impactful artwork using waste (such as take out containers, or recyclables from Musikfest). Ideas are still preliminary in nature.  
Martha announced on behalf of Citizens Climate Lobby that there is a Climate Change Conference on Jan. 18 & 19 called 20-20 Vision: Clarifying our Regional Climate Strategy, which she plans to attend.
- 4. Chair's comments & amendments to agenda:** None.
- 5. Board comments and announcements:** None.
- 6. Katharine Targett Gross, Lehigh University Sustainability Officer:** Katharine provided an update on Lehigh University's sustainability efforts. She discussed how the group was tracking metrics to achieve their current and future goals, and how they are changing campus operations to reduce their impact on the planet. Her department is looking for ways to engage students in community efforts and mentioned a campus tree inventory and Climate Action Plan, which she noted should follow the City's Climate Action Plan. To ensure they are congruent, she asked if we could help her get in touch with the key contact for the City's Climate Action Plan, as she is also interested in the possibility of getting students to assist or at least participate in creating Bethlehem's Climate Action Plan.  
Members of the EAC inquired about Lehigh's academic programs related to sustainability. Currently, many courses exist where sustainability is a primary focus, and many more where it is discussed, but no curriculum exists relating to sustainability. All agreed this is something we would like to see in the future.
- 7. Committee reports:**  
**Bethlehem Backyards for Wildlife (BBFW):** Martha reported that BBFW met with city personnel Darlene Heller, Matt Dorner, David Shaffer, and Jody Evans to discuss implementing the grant that they received for improvements to the Rose Garden. A follow-up meeting is scheduled for January 17 which will include Chris Brown, the landscape architect who developed the plans for the park. At the January 17<sup>th</sup> meeting,

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the group will prepare a timeline for Phase 1 of the Rose Garden improvements, review the budget, and further clarify working roles of various offices throughout the project.

**8. External committee reports:**

- a. **City Council:** No report.
- b. **Planning:** No report.
- c. **Zoning:** No report.

**9. Unfinished business:**

- a. **Website:** Brian H. has secured a domain name for the Bethlehem EAC: bethlehemeac.org. We are looking for someone to design our website. If anyone has a suggestion, please let us know.

**10. New business**

- a. **Green Committee:** Lynn Rothman (Chair) was not present, however, submitted the following in writing, which was presented on her behalf by Beth Behrend, acting Chair for the evening. “Although it has been inactive, the EAC has a Green Committee. I recommend that we resurrect this committee for pollinator habitat projects and our newly launched tree inventory initiative, the purpose of which is to work with the City Forester to increase the tree canopy in Bethlehem City. Since Brian Nicas has started these initiatives, I motion to appoint Brian Nicas as chair of the Green Committee.” Elisabeth seconded and Brian’s appointment to head of the Green Committee was approved unanimously. Brian arranged a meeting with the City Forester on Monday, January 6<sup>th</sup>, at which time those interested will discuss the status of the City’s tree inventory, and opportunities for the EAC to support the City Forester in increasing and monitoring our city’s tree canopy.

**11. Agenda for next meeting**

**Meeting adjourned at 8:28 PM.**

**Respectfully Submitted,  
Elisabeth Cichonski, Secretary**