

**Bethlehem Environmental Advisory Council
General Meeting
December 5, 2019**

Attendees: EAC Members: Lynn Rothman, Elisabeth Cichonski (Secretary), Brian Hillard, Brian Nicas, Beth Behrend, City Councilman William Reynolds (Liaison to the EAC) Ben Guthrie, Jane Cook (Bethlehem Backyards for Wildlife [BBFW] and Monocacy Creek Watershed Coalition [MCWC]), Greg Cook (Appalachian Mountain Club), Karen Berry, Kathy Fox (Bethlehem Food Co-Op), Elke Rockwell, Ben Felzer (Lehigh University [LU]), Chloe Kohler (LU), Margaux Petruska, Maxine Gillespie.

Call To Order: 7:00 PM

1. **Approval of minutes (November):** Brian N. motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Brian H. The November minutes are approved unanimously.
2. **Place citizens' comments on agenda:** Central Moravian Church has a Care for Creation subcommittee is looking for a venue to show the movie "The Pollinators" which was shown at the 2019 San Francisco Green Film Festival. The subcommittee intends to show the movie around Earth Day.
3. **Chair's comments & amendments to agenda:** Beth, Lynn and Elisabeth are up for reappointment in January. There is one open seat and two eligible applicants. The EAC sends best wishes to Mike Topping who was unable to make it as he is recovering from a medical procedure.
4. **Board comments and announcements:** No comments or announcements.
5. **Committee reports:**
 - a. **Bethlehem Backyards for Wildlife (BBFW):** No report.
 - b. **Solar Committee:** Lynn met with Darlene Heller, Director of Planning and Zoning, in October about the EAC's proposal for a solar ordinance. Darlene requested more detailed information about solar assessments, etc. The Solar Committee met on Nov. 24th. and assigned different topics regarding solar installation and energy efficiency for committee members to research. The committee will circle back with their findings to assemble a clear explanation of the process for the City's Planning and Zoning Department.
6. **External committee reports:**
 - a. **City Council:** Beth and Brian N. spoke at City Council. Thank you to all EAC members that have been attending City Council meetings to show our support.
 - b. **Planning:** The plans for the Wind Creek new hotel are on file. Plans will be available between 8-9 AM tomorrow (12/6) in the planning office. We will draft a letter with our comments reiterating the expectation for enhanced sustainable design for the new hotel. The letter will also mention that hotels can use Commercially Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE) financing to aid in enhanced energy efficiency and renewable energy projects for the new building and its systems.
 - c. **Zoning:** No report.
7. **Unfinished business:**
 - a. **Climate Action Plan:** Councilman Reynolds spoke with Mike Alkhal (Director of Public Works). When the City budget is passed and the money for the Climate Action Plan (CAP) has been appropriated, the contract for WSP will be sent out. WSP anticipates being able to complete the plan in 2020. All agreed to the EAC could play a role in educating the public and public engagement to ensure a unique CAP for the City of

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Bethlehem is developed. BBFW began reviewing items they would like to see addressed in the CAP; all agreed that the EAC should collaborate with BBFW.

8 New business:

- a. **Website:** When the City's administration updated their website, some organizations were selected to create and administer their own separate websites, including the EAC. Moving forward, there can be another line item for the EAC budget to maintain the website. The EAC will need help creating and maintaining our page, so if anyone has a contact who designs and manages websites, please share their contact information so we can reach out for a quote. Brian H. recommended a few search engines to help find URL names that he used when he created the LV Climate Action Network homepage. EAC members agreed we'd like to jump on this. Brian H. will begin looking into URL names immediately.
9. **Projects for 2020:** See attachment "EAC Potential Projects 2020".

Kathy emailed the EAC in Ambler who applied for a grant with Growing Greener to put raingardens on residential properties of volunteers. She requested a copy of the grant application so Bethlehem can follow suit.

 - a. **Lehigh Valley EAC Network:** Tinku Khanwalker from the Allentown EAC, Ian Kindle from the Easton EAC and Lynn Rothman and Brian Hillard, Bethlehem EAC, discussed holding a meeting of all Lehigh Valley EACs to provide the opportunity for EACs to network and collaborate. The meeting will be held on March 11th at Illick's Mill in Bethlehem. The initial EAC Network Meeting will include EAC members only, perhaps subsequent meetings will be open to the public. Lynn will not be able to attend and encouraged other EAC members to attend.
 - i. **Alternate EAC logos:** Brian N. suggested creating a new unique logo for the Bethlehem EAC and asking local universities for art submissions.
 - ii. **Tree canopy:** Brian N. would like to start a committee to increase tree canopy in the City and has contacted City Forester David Schafer to initiate discussion. BBFW planted 100 trees in 2016, so it would be advantageous to combine our efforts with BBFW. The Arbor Day foundation was suggested for support with this endeavor. We may also want to look for help from student interns or the public via a tree inventory app.
 - b. **Meeting dates for 2020:** The EAC will continue to meet on the first Thursday of every month at 7 PM at Illick's Mill.
10. **Agenda for next meeting:** Katharine Taggart is the new Sustainability Officer at Lehigh University and will be speaking at the January meeting. She requested that EAC members send her topics for discussion prior to our next meeting. Topics suggested included single use plastic, food waste, tree inventory at Lehigh, solar at Lehigh.

Meeting adjourned at 8:09 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Elisabeth Cichonski, Secretary

EAC Potential Projects 2020

Climate Action Plan, All EAC members

Work with City & WSP on CAP

Most projects listed below promote positive climate action

Waste Reduction Committee, Beth (Chair),

Single use plastic bag ban

Styrofoam ban

Composting food waste

Waste minimization for events

Leftover food donation from institutions

Provide for composting for residents

Recycling containers north & southside downtowns

Solar Energy Committee, Kathy Fox (Chair), Brian N., Lynn, Elisabeth

Recommendations for ordinance: solar panels, sustainable and energy efficient design

Promote education for city staff

Pollinator Habitat, Brian N, (support from BBFW?)

Pollinator habitat throughout city, especially roadway medians

Review weed ordinance

Pesticide use (City and/or resident education)

Education Flyers, Lynn, Amy True

Community Energy Efficiency Committee, Brian H., Elisabeth,

Lehigh Valley EAC Network, Brian H., Lynn,

Facebook page, Elisabeth (Chair), All EAC members

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Support City's efforts

Review major land development plans in City, All EAC members

Example: Martin Tower, Wind Creek

City contact: Tracy E. Samuelson Assistant Director of Planning and Zoning

Anti-idling Campaign

BBFW projects

[Additional topics discussed at 12/5/19 EAC Meeting:](#)

[Logo Contest](#)

[Tree Inventory](#)