

**Bethlehem Environmental Advisory Council
General Meeting
January 6, 2022**

Attendees: EAC Members: Lynn Rothman (Chair), Mike Topping (Vice Chair), Ben Guthrie (Secretary), Beth Behrend, Ben Felzer. Celina Daddario, Breena Holland, Anna Zawierucha, Cathy Kimock, Kathryn Semmens (Nurture Nature Center), Councilperson Rachel Leon.

Call to Order – 7:01 PM

1. Welcome

2. Elections

- Vice Chair - The EAC shall elect from among their members a Vice-Chair at the first meeting of each calendar year. The Vice-Chair shall carry out the Chair's duties in case of absence, incapacity, or resignation.

Ben G. nominated Mike. The nomination was seconded by Lynn, but Mike declined position. Brian nominated Beth. The nomination was seconded by Ben F. Beth was elected unanimously.

- Secretary - The Secretary will be responsible for keeping the official minutes of the EAC. In the absence of a regularly appointed Secretary, the duties of the Secretary may be fulfilled on a rotating basis by any voting member of the EAC with different persons performing the duties from meeting to meeting.

Lynn nominated Ben G. The nomination was seconded by Brian. Ben G. was elected unanimously.

3. Approval of minutes (December): Motion to approve minutes made by Mike, seconded by Ben F. Approved unanimously.

4. Kate Semmens, Nurture Nature Center: CREATE Resilience project. Currently in year 3 of 4 year program. Applying for additional funding to extend the program for an additional four years starting in August/September 2022. Would like to shift focus to implementing the Climate Action Plans in Bethlehem and Easton. The Nurture Nature Center would develop education materials, infographics, etc. to make the plans more accessible. They also plan to have an internship program with four local colleges. Educational programming will be implemented in partnership with libraries and community organizations. They are asking if the EAC would be willing to serve as an advisor for the project, and for a letter of support from the EAC by January 15.

Brian made a motion that the EAC should write a letter of support and volunteer to act as advisory group. Mike seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously

5. Chair's comments & amendments to agenda

- New Elected Officials Sworn-In – The new council president will be Councilman Michael Colón and the new council vice president will be Councilwoman Grace

Crampsie Smith. Former councilperson J. William Reynolds has been sworn in as the new mayor. A new City Council liaison to EAC is expected to be appointed in early February.

- Green Drinks is now sponsored by Citizens Climate Lobby and held every fourth Thursday. This month's topic is a presentation on the Nurture Nature Center's mission to integrate art and science, including a virtual tour of nature-based artwork by local artists.

6. Place citizens' comments on agenda

- Anna Zawierucha – Learned recently that Easton has compost program. Could Bethlehem do something similar?
- Breena Holland – Suggested that when the EAC provides comments about new development that we be sure to consider environmental justice concerns.
- Cathy Kimock – Recently found Bethlehem Natural Science Association scrapbook from 1938 and donated it to Lehigh University Archives.

7. Board comments and announcements

- Mike – The Shad Fishermen's Association of Delaware River has noticed that the shad are coming up the river earlier in the season in recent years.
- Brian – The City recently placed brine down in anticipation of the upcoming storm. We may want to consider impact to our waterways and discuss with city staff. Would it be possible to reduce the quantity the city uses?

8. Committee reports

- a. **Bethlehem Backyards for Wildlife** – No update. Did not meet in December.
- b. **Waste Reduction Committee (Beth)** – No update.
- c. **Green Committee (Brian)** – No update.
- d. **Energy Committee (Elisabeth)** – Committee members (Brian, Elisabeth, and Lynn) hope to meet this month to discuss possible updates to Bethlehem's solar ordinances. Committee members recently met with the Fire Chief and Planning Department to discuss potential ordinance changes.

9. External committee reports

- a. **Monocacy Creek Watershed Association** – No update. Did not meet in December.

10. Unfinished business

- a. **Lehigh Spring Internships** – Three students are beginning spring internships with the EAC. The internships are for credit, and include a commitment of approximately 12 hours of work per week. Ben F. will serve as de facto supervisor. Alyssa Klinger and Emile Cohen are working together on Green Restaurants with Beth and Elisabeth. The students will be studying a restaurant in Philadelphia that uses reusable takeout containers and researching how a similar program may work in Bethlehem. Kendall O'Farrell will be working with Ben F., Brian, and the City Forester on the tree ordinances. The project includes

researching the existing tree ordinance and comparing it to ordinances in other cities. The students will present the results to the EAC this spring.

11. New business

- a. **EAC Appointments** – There are two vacant positions on the EAC. Potential new members are invited to send their letter of interest and resume to the EAC prior to February 11, 2022. The EAC will provide a package to the City Clerk for dissemination to City Council.

12. Agenda – The next EAC meeting will be held on February 3rd.

13. Adjourn – Meeting adjourned at 8:19 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Ben Guthrie, Secretary