

**Bethlehem Environmental Advisory Council
General Meeting
May 5, 2022**

Attendees: EAC Members: Lynn Rothman (Chair), Beth Behrend (Vice Chair), Ben Guthrie (Secretary), Ben Felzer, Katie Trembler, Vibhor Kumar
Guests/Community Members: Councilwoman Kiera Wilhelm, David Shaffer (City Forester), Kendall O'Farrell (Lehigh University), Alyssa Klinger (Lehigh University), Emilie Cohen (Lehigh University), Audrey McSain (Sustainability Director, Lehigh University), Jon Zeller, Albert Wurth, David Casagrande

Call to Order – 7:00 PM

- 1. Welcome**
- 2. Approval of minutes (April):** Motion by Ben F., seconded by Beth. Approved unanimously.
- 3. Lehigh University student intern projects**
 - a. Kendall O'Farrell: Urban Forestry Master Plan
Power point presentation can be viewed at: [Urban Forestry Master Plan](#)
 - b. Alyssa Klinger and Emilie Cohen: Green Restaurants
Power point presentation can be viewed at:
https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/14CFhcfIF2_ySLkg1TOli3ItWqd0v6LPT82CHZKQa1X8/edit?usp=sharing
- 4. Committee reports**
 - a. **Bethlehem Backyards for Wildlife** – Will be receiving 200 native perennial plant plugs on May 16 from a purchase through Kind Earth Growers in Ottsville, and we will be planting them in the ten beds up on the Hoover Mason Trestle. Very excited that this will bring more colorful blooms through the Spring, Summer and Fall. Also, we now have two water sources up on the Hoover Mason Trestle (HMT) so that we don't have to haul water containers up there. The irrigation system has been fine-tuned and is on a timed schedule to keep everything hydrated between rains, but these two spigots give us more flexibility and will be most helpful when we plant the 200 new flowering native perennials.
 - b. **Waste Reduction Committee** – No report.
 - c. **Solar Committee** – Lynn shared the committee's draft revisions to the existing solar ordinance.
- 5. External committee reports**
 - a. **Monocacy Creek Watershed Association**
 - We continue the work along the Gertrude Fox Conservation Area trail that will be about a 1/2-mile loop that starts across from the Oasis Community Center near Center Street and Route 22 and goes east along the creek side

and through a wooded area, looping back to its starting point. We have been clearing invasive species and branches, and the trail is now definitely easy to follow as it meanders along the creek bank. Platform steps and benches will also be included in this project—hoping for a late-Fall of 2022 completion.

- We are also meeting with the City of Bethlehem engineering department to choose floodplain and stream bank restoration projects that might be done as a part of the Fish & Boat Commission proposals we recently received.
- We had a hugely successful Monocacy Creek Cleanup event on Saturday, April 30! 57 volunteers picked up lots of trash, storm debris and litter, and that's record number of volunteers. Police Chief Michelle Kott, ten police Academy cadets, Morning Star Rotary members, Trout Unlimited members and many people from across the Lehigh Valley turned out and covered the long stretch from Illick's Mill all the way down to Union Boulevard. Special thanks to Katie Trembler and her two daughters for pitching in!

b. City Council

- The City held a public announcement on Tuesday, May 3rd to update the public on the City's Climate Action Plan implementation timeline and strategy.
- The City will be holding a public announcement on Tuesday, May 10th to announce several public investments related to the future of West Bethlehem.
- There will be an exhibition on alley houses on Friday, May 6th at the Brinker Lofts.

c. Planning & Zoning – No report

6. Board comments and announcements

- a. The next steering committee meeting for the Lehigh Valley EAC Network Forum will be held via Zoom on June 8th from 7:00 to 8:00 PM. The guest speaker will be Becky Bradley, Executive Director of the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission, who will lead a discussion about regional opportunities and the role of municipal environmental advisory organizations.
- b. Beth Behrend, Vice Chair and Chair of the Waste Reduction Committee, a valued and active member of the EAC, announced that she will be resigning from the EAC as of May 31st. We wish her the best and always welcome her involvement.

7. Old business

8. New business

9. Next Meeting

- a. **Meeting Date** – The next EAC meeting will be held on Thursday, June 2, 2022.
- b. **Meeting Location** – The meeting will be held in person at Illick's Mill.

10. Adjourn – Meeting adjourned at 8:39 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Ben Guthrie, Secretary