

**Bethlehem Environmental Advisory Council
General Meeting
August 4, 2022**

Attendees: EAC Members: Lynn Rothman (Chair), Ben Felzer (Vice Chair), Ben Guthrie (Secretary - Virtual), Mike Topping (Virtual), Katie Trembler, Vibhor Kumar
Guests/Community Members: Councilwoman Kiera Wilhelm (City Council liaison to the EAC), Matthew Petrushka, Alex Darlington, Doug Roysdon, Todd Dietrich, Steve Olshevski, Sara Aldarondo, Madeline Watts, Emily Newman, Corena Munroe, Anna Zawierucha (Virtual), Al Wurth (Virtual)

Call to Order – 7:00 PM

1. Welcome

2. Approval of minutes (June): Motion by Ben F., seconded by Katie. Approved unanimously.

3. Chair’s comments and amendments to agenda

- a. The Bethlehem Area Public Library will be hosting an event, All We Can Save: Learning & Living in a Time of Climate Crisis on August 8 at 6:00 PM.
- b. We had written letter in support of a grant application for the Nurture Nature Center. They were applying for a grant from NOAA to work on community engagement in implementation of the Bethlehem and Easton CAPs. NOAA did not have enough funds this year, so NNC did not receive grant. They received feedback that they had a strong application and they were encouraged to reapply next year.
- c. The EAC Network Gathering will be held in Haverford on October 22. It will be an all-day event on Saturday.
- d. We have had two very strong applicants for open EAC position. The deadline to apply is this weekend.
- e. One addition to the agenda – report from Saucon Creek Watershed Association

4. Board comments and announcements – None

5. Southside Permaculture Park (Presentation by Emily Newman, Corena Munroe, Maddie Watts and Kat Neumann – Lehigh University)

- a. The student team provided an overview of permaculture principles and how the team is applying these principles in Bethlehem.
- b. The Permaculture Park is in a part of the city that is lacking in green space and sits within an identified food desert.
- c. Overview of goals:
 - i. Expand green spaces in Bethlehem to provide more nutritious food
 - ii. Bring communities together
 - iii. Change mindsets for more healthy and sustainable living
 - iv. Rebuild the connection between people and nature

6. Citizen's comments – None

7. Committee reports

- a. **Bethlehem Backyards for Wildlife (Jane Cook via email)** – BBW is continuing work at the Hoover Mason Trestle at Steel Stacks
- b. **Solar Committee (Lynn Rothman)** – See City Council Report

8. External committee reports

- a. **Monocacy Creek Watershed Association (Jane Cook via email)** – MCWA is continuing work on the stream bank restoration project at Gertrude Fox Conservation Area
- b. **City Council (Councilwoman Kiera Wilhelm)**
 - i. **LERTA** – Incorporated increased tax incentives tied to levels of LEED certification in the LERTA district for industrial and manufacturing buildings.
 - ii. **Solar ordinance** – The proposed ordinance revisions will be discussed at an upcoming Human Resources and Environment Committee meeting.
- c. **Saucon Creek Watershed Association (Mike Topping)** – No report.
- d. **Planning & Zoning** – No report.
- e. **Citizens Traffic Advisory Committee (Lynn Rothman)**
 - i. There is an upcoming contest sponsored by CAT to honor LANTA's upcoming 50th birthday.

9. Old business

- a. **Climate Action Plan**
 - i. Bethlehem as a biking city
- b. **Bethlehem Township Wawa Update** – Lynn spoke with Tiffany Wells, City Traffic Engineer, about the project. The City will be providing comments to PennDOT.

10. New business

- a. **New meeting location** – We are considering alternative meeting locations because Illick's Mill is not accessible by walking or transit. Suggestions for alternative locations include City Hall Rotunda and Fowler Center at NCC.
 - i. Motion by Vibhor to recommend meeting at the Fowler Center conference room in September, October, and November, and to spend the funds to advertise the change. Seconded by Ben F. Approved unanimously.
- b. **Priorities and projects for EAC**
 - i. Katie is interested in chairing Waste Reduction Committee.
 - ii. Ben F. is interested in chairing the Green Committee.
 - iii. Ben G. is interested in leading working group to research best practices and/or ordinance examples of how cities are handling on-street parking vehicle charging infrastructure.

11. Next Meeting

- a. **Meeting Date** – September 1, 2022

12. Adjourn – Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Ben Guthrie, Secretary