

**Bethlehem Environmental Advisory Council  
General Meeting  
September 1, 2022**

**Attendees:** EAC Members: Lynn Rothman (Chair – Virtual), Ben Felzer (Vice Chair), Ben Guthrie (Secretary - Virtual), Katie Trembler, Vibhor Kumar,  
Guests/Community Members: Mandy Tolino, Alex Darlington, Steve Olshevski, Sara Aldarondo

**Call to Order – 7:00 PM**

- 1. Welcome**
- 2. Approval of minutes (August):** Motion by Katie, seconded by Vibhor. Approved unanimously.
- 3. Chair’s comments and amendments to agenda**
  - a. Wi-Fi is available at the Fowler Center
  - b. A prospective new EAC member, Mandy Tolino, has been nominated. City Council is expected to consider her application on September 6, 2022.
  - c. The EAC Network Fall Gathering will take place on Saturday, October 22 in Haverford, PA.
  - d. The president of Bird Town PA will be in Bethlehem on Wednesday, September 14, at 1:00 PM to deliver new signage. EAC members are invited to attend.
  - e. The EAC Network is promoting two upcoming webinars on Lawn Conversion and Green Infrastructure.
- 4. Board comments and announcements – None**
- 5. Citizen’s comments**
  - a. Steve Olshevski commented that the new meeting location is great.
- 6. Committee reports**
  - a. **Bethlehem Backyards for Wildlife (Jane Cook via email)** – BBFW is continuing work at the Hoover Mason Trestle at Steel Stacks. Thanks to Vibhor for participating in the recent work session.
- 7. External committee reports**
  - a. **Monocacy Creek Watershed Association (Jane Cook via email)** – MCWA will be hosting a stream cleanup on Saturday, October 1. They would like to partner with the EAC, and Stich Fix, among others.
  - b. **Saucon Creek Watershed Association (Mike Topping)** – No report.
  - c. **City Council (Councilwoman Kiera Wilhelm)** – No report.
  - d. **Planning & Zoning** – Tracy Samuelson has retired as Assistant Planning Director. Craig Peiffer will be the new Assistant Director. He confirmed that plans will continue to be sent to EAC for comment.

## **8. Old business**

### **a. Climate Action Plan**

- i. **Bethlehem as a Biking City** – Community meeting will be held on September 12. Katie will represent the EAC.
- ii. **Solar Ordinance** – On August 16, 2022 Lynn was invited to speak at the Human Resources and Environment Committee on behalf of the EAC, in addition to Director of Planning & Zoning, Darlene Heller, Code Enforcement Chief, Mike Simonson and Deputy Chief Craig Baer. Lynn presented the recommended ordinance revisions. The committee unanimously supported the recommended changes. On September 6 the proposed ordinance revisions will be read to City Council.

## **9. New business**

### **a. Monocacy Creek Stream Cleanup**

- i. Motion by Ben F. that the EAC should sponsor the upcoming stream cleanup on Saturday, October 1. Seconded by Ben G. Approved unanimously.

### **b. Priorities and projects for EAC**

- i. Active Committees to Lead Initiatives
  1. Bethlehem Backyards for Wildlife (BBFW): Jane Cook, Chair
  2. Green Committee: Ben Felzer, Chair
  3. Waste Reduction Committee: Katie Trembler, Chair
  4. Transportation Committee: Ben Guthrie, Chair
  5. Industrial Outreach Committee: Matthew Petrushka, Chair
  6. Energy Committee: Lynn Rothman, Chair
- ii. Other Ongoing Initiatives
  1. Review major land development plans in Bethlehem City
  2. Social Media/Community Engagement
  3. Lehigh Valley EAC Network
  4. Coordination with Monocacy Creek Watershed Association and Saucon Creek Watershed Association
  5. Bird Town USA – Need volunteer.

### **c. Budget**

- i. EAC committees should consider whether a potential budget request would be beneficial to their committee's work in the coming year.

## **10. Next Meeting**

- a. **Meeting Date** – October 6, 2022

## **11. Adjourn** – Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Ben Guthrie, Secretary