

**Bethlehem Environmental Advisory Council  
General Meeting  
November 3, 2022**

**Attendees:** EAC Members: Lynn Rothman (Chair), Ben Guthrie (Secretary - Virtual), Katie Trembler, Mandy Tolino (Virtual), Mike Topping (Virtual)  
Guests/Community Members: Councilwoman Kiera Wilhelm, Todd Mertz, Josie Miserendino, Ann Gastinger, Steve Olshevski, Alexandra Gallagher (Promise Neighborhoods LV - Virtual), Jennifer Swann (Lehigh University - Virtual), Alexa Giraudon (Lehigh University – Virtual), Vaniah Barrera (Lehigh University - Virtual), Allison Ludlow (Moravian University), David Shaffer (City of Bethlehem Forester).

**Call to Order – 7:04 PM**

- 1. Welcome**
- 2. Approval of minutes (October):** Motion by Katie, seconded by Mike. Approved unanimously.
- 3. Chair’s comments and amendments to agenda**
  - a. PennEnvironment Research & Policy Center sampled high quality streams for the presence of microplastics. The report can be found at:  
<https://environmentamerica.org/pennsylvania/center/resources/pennsylvanias-pristine-waterways-and-microplastics/>
  - b. EAC Annual Report - Lynn will send draft to EAC members this weekend
  - c. Bird Town PA - Katie prepared slides
- 4. Board comments and announcements - None**
- 5. Promise Corps: Alexa Giraudon and Vaniah Barrera, Lehigh University**
  - a. Presentation on the Lehigh Valley Wood Recycling and Repurposing Project using a solar kiln
  - b. Their mission is to use donations of urban wood from sites in the Lehigh Valley to create physical goods that benefit the larger Lehigh Valley community.
- 6. Committee reports**
  - a. **Bethlehem Backyards for Wildlife (Jane Cook via email)** –The watering system up on the Hoover Mason Trestle (HMT) has been shut down for the winter. Next activities will be in the spring, with cleanups at HMT, the Greenway Meadow, and the native plant beds at the Rose Garden park
  - b. **Transportation Committee (Ben Guthrie)** – A virtual meeting will be held on Thursday, November 17 to discuss electric vehicle accommodation.
- 7. External committee reports**
  - a. **Monocacy Creek Watershed Association (Jane Cook via email)** –

- i. Work continues on the Gertrude Fox Conservation Area trail along the Monocacy Creek near Center Street and Route 22. The entrance “ramp” for the trail head is now completed.
- ii. Signage and final clearing of the path should be completed in the next couple of weeks.
- iii. The MCWA planted a live stakes nursery at the Monocacy Farms on Bridle Path Road, using trees from the Pennsylvania Million Trees program.
- iv. The MCWA recently tabled at the Monocacy Farm Food Festival, and volunteers from that event have already participated by planting native perennials at the overlook area on the Gertrude Fox Trail.
- b. **Saucon Creek Watershed Association (Mike Topping)** – 70 trees and shrubs were recently planted at the Lower Saucon Sportsman Association Clubhouse. The SCWA has monthly meetings that EAC members are welcome to attend.
- c. **City Council (Councilwoman Kiera Wilhelm)** – The solar ordinance revisions continue to advance. A public hearing was held at the City Council meeting on November 1. The first reading will be November 15.
- d. **Citizens Traffic Advisory Committee (CTAC)** – The Vision Zero plan was recently updated. The City is applying for a Safe Streets for All grant.

## 8. Old business

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

- i. **Bethlehem as a Biking City** – Two community meetings were held in October. Doug Roysdon (Sierra Club) and Scott Slingerland (Coalition for Appropriate Transportation) are compiling a report for City Council. The report will be complete by the end of November.
- ii. **Solar Ordinance** – The ordinance was presented to the City’s Planning Commission on October 13. The solicitor there suggested some positive edits. . The Lehigh Valley Planning Commission reviewed the ordinance on October 25 and was supportive. A public hearing was held at the City Council meeting on November 1. The first reading will be November 15.

## 9. New business

- a. **Bethlehem Food Co-Op Waste Reduction Initiative (Todd Mertz)** – Construction has started for the future location of the Co-Op grocery store on East Broad Street. They are currently interviewing candidates to serve as a General Manager. The GM will be a key person in any future composting efforts. There is potential for facilitating food composting, but that idea has not been fully developed to date. They look forward to working with the EAC.

## 10. Citizen’s comments

- a. **Plastic Bag Ban (Josie Miserendino)** – There are a few community members who are motivated to advance the plastic bag ban previously proposed by the EAC. The Waste Reduction Committee will forward a list of questions from City Council to these volunteers to research as part of the Waste Reduction Committee

**11. Next Meeting**

- a. Meeting Date – December 1, 2022
- b. Bird Town PA has been invited to give a presentation.

**12. Adjourn** – Meeting adjourned at 7:59 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Ben Guthrie, Secretary