

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

**Attendees:** EAC Members: Lynn Rothman (Chair), Ben Felzer (Vice Chair), Ben Guthrie (Secretary), Katie Trembler, Mike Topping, Mandy Tolino (Virtual), Vibhor Kumar (Virtual)  
Guests/Community Members: Steve Olshevski, Brian Hillard, Kelly VonSteuben, Doug Roysdon, Jane Cook, Anna Zawierucha (Virtual), Kathy S (Virtual), Heidi Shiver (Virtual), Audrey McSain (Virtual), Albert Wurth (Virtual).

**Call to Order – 7:04 PM**

- 1. Welcome**
- 2. Approval of minutes (November):** Motion by Ben F., seconded by Mike. Approved unanimously.
- 3. Chair’s comments and amendments to agenda**
  - a. A report from the Green Committee has been added under committee reports.
  - b. A discussion of the climate change program at Broughal Middle School has been added to the agenda under climate action plan (old business).
  - c. A discussion of Bethlehem as a bike city has been added to the agenda under climate action plan (old business).
  - d. There will be a statewide EAC conference on February 25, 2023.
- 4. Board comments and announcements – None**
- 5. Heidi Shiver, President of Bird Town PA**
  - a. Bird Town Pennsylvania works in partnership with local municipalities and like-minded organizations to promote community-based conservation actions to create a healthier, more sustainable environment for birds, wildlife, and people.
  - b. Bird Town Pennsylvania, LLC is under the corporate umbrella of the Pennsylvania Audubon Council (PAAC).
  - c. Each chapter is expected to submit an annual report.
  - d. There are several possible workshops in the planning for 2023.
- 6. Committee reports**
  - a. Bethlehem Backyards for Wildlife (Jane Cook) –** Work on the Hoover Mason Trestle is done for the year.
  - b. Waste Reduction Committee (Katie Trembler) –** A virtual meeting was held on November 28 to discuss potential action on the plastic bag ban. The committee will be reconvening in January.
  - c. Transportation Committee (Ben Guthrie) –** A virtual meeting was held on November 28 to discuss curbside charging of electric vehicles. The committee is working on follow-up research.
  - d. Green Committee (Ben Felzer) –** Will be meeting virtually at 7:00 on Monday, December 5 to discuss potential upcoming initiatives.

## **7. External committee reports**

- a. **Monocacy Creek Watershed Association (Jane Cook)** – This year MCWA developed a 0.6 mile walking trail at Gertrude B. Fox Conservation Area, on the east side of Center Street north of the creek. MCWA will be continuing live stake plantings during the winter. MCWA will be preparing an annual report later this month.
- b. **Saucon Creek Watershed Association (Mike Topping)** – The SCWA and MCWA are planning a pot luck gathering on December 7 at Illick’s Mill.
- c. **City Council (Lynn Rothman)** – The solar ordinance revisions continue to advance. The first reading has held on November 15. The final vote will be held at the December 6 council meeting.

## **8. Old business**

- a. **Climate Action Plan**
  - i. **Solar Ordinance (Lynn Rothman)** – The final vote will be held at the December 6 council meeting.
  - ii. **Bethlehem as a Biking City (Doug Roysdon)** – Three community meetings have been held to date. There will be a presentation of the citizens’ report to City Council on December 20, 2022.
  - iii. **Climate Change Program at Broughal Middle School (Doug Roysdon)** – There was a successful event at Broughal Middle School to learn about climate change through the arts. There may be future opportunities to discuss the Climate Action Plan as part of future school programs.

## **9. New business**

- a. **Meeting location for 2023** – The EAC will continue to meet at Northampton Community College Fowler Center if the space is available.

## **10. Citizen’s comments** – None

## **11. Next Meeting**

- a. Meeting Date – January 5, 2023

## **12. Adjourn** – Meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Ben Guthrie, Secretary