

**Bethlehem Environmental Advisory Council
General Meeting
January 5, 2023**

Attendees: EAC Members: Lynn Rothman (Chair), Ben Felzer (Vice Chair), Ben Guthrie (Secretary), Katie Trembler, Mandy Tolino, Mike Topping (Virtual), Vibhor Kumar (Virtual)
Guests/Community Members: Councilwoman Kiera Wilhelm, Doug Roysdon, Karen Poshefko, Steve Olshevski (Virtual), Maia Simon (Virtual), Josie Miserendino (Virtual), Lisa Lubin (Virtual), Al Wurth (Virtual).

Call to Order – 7:03 PM

- 1. Welcome**
- 2. Approval of minutes (December):** Motion by Katie, seconded by Mandy. Approved unanimously.
- 3. Chair’s comments and amendments to agenda**
 - a. Vibhor and Lynn were each reappointed to a three year term on the EAC at this week’s City Council meeting.
 - b. Lynn confirmed that we can utilize the Fowler Center conference room for our monthly meetings from January through August. The April meeting will be in an adjacent conference room.
- 4. Board comments and announcements – None**
- 5. Committee reports**
 - a. **Bethlehem Backyards for Wildlife (Jane Cook)** – No report.
 - b. **Waste Reduction Committee (Katie Trembler)** – The committee will be meeting on January 10 at 7:00 PM. It will be a virtual meeting. The committee’s current focus is advancing a plastic bag ban by responding to City Council’s questions.
 - c. **Transportation Committee (Ben Guthrie)** – A virtual meeting was held on January 3 to discuss curbside charging of electric vehicles. The committee is working on follow-up research. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 7, 2023. It will be a virtual meeting.
 - d. **Green Committee (Ben Felzer)** – The committee met on Monday, December 5 to discuss potential upcoming initiatives. The committee would like to work with the City Forester to update the recommendations for tree planting in the city. The committee also discussed the City’s weed ordinance and the ability for residents to grow natural meadows. Arbor Day activities to be held 4/28/23 at the constables of the Bethlehem Mounted Police with help from Betterscapes LLC. We are considering an ancillary event on the South Side.
- 6. External committee reports**
 - a. **Monocacy Creek Watershed Association (Jane Cook)** – The three signs are now installed at Gertrude Fox conservation area. A trail opening event will be

held this spring. The final report has been submitted for the Lehigh Valley Greenways grant.

- b. **Saucon Creek Watershed Association (Mike Topping)** – No report.
- c. **City Council (Councilwoman Kiera Wilhelm)** – Councilmembers were pleased to reappoint EAC members at the January 3 meeting and to recognize Lynn for her leadership.

7. Old business

a. Climate Action Plan

- i. **Environmental Justice Steering Committee & Community Action Development Bethlehem Green Space Meeting (Lynn Rothman)** – Community Action’s Southside Tomorrow committee is focusing on housing affordability, green spaces, and related issues. The committee is currently accepting proposals for projects in 2024.
- b. **Bird Town PA (Maia Simon)** – Maia recently moved to the area and suggested the potential for multi-municipal cooperation to form a local Bird Town group. She is willing to work on this initiative based on her prior experience joining Bird Towns in Bucks County. There was general agreement that the EAC would be supportive of a Lehigh Valley Bird Town or Greater Bethlehem Bird Town.

8. New business

- a. **Bethlehem the Biking City (Doug Roysdon)** – Doug and Scott Slingerland recently presented a citizens’ report on biking infrastructure during the open comment period at City Council. They also requested the City study what it would mean to have a full bicycle network. Doug asked if the EAC would be willing to write a letter in support of this network study. EAC members will review the report and vote at the Feb. meeting.

9. Citizen’s comments

- a. Peg – Request that EAC/Waste Reduction Committee take on an initiative to reduce plastic waste with the installation of public water fountains and public recycling bins.

10. Next Meeting

- a. Meeting Date – February 2, 2023
- b. Victoria Bastidas of Friends of Johnson would like to give a presentation about an upcoming stormwater management project.

11. Adjourn – Meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Ben Guthrie, Secretary