

**Bethlehem Environmental Advisory Council
General Meeting
August 3, 2023**

Attendees: EAC Members: Lynn Rothman (Chair), Ben Felzer (Vice Chair), Ben Guthrie (Secretary - Virtual), Vibhor Kumar, Katie Trembler
Guests/Community Members: Kathy Fox, William Egbert, Steve Olshevski, Shelby Carr, Amy Zimmerman, Lisa Kemmer, Molly Bilinski (Virtual), Johnny Quinones (Virtual), Karen Berry (Virtual)

Call to Order – 7:02 PM

- 1. Welcome**
- 2. Approval of minutes (July):** Motion by Ben F., seconded by Vibhor. Approved unanimously.
- 3. Basel Yandem, Chief of Engineering and Deputy Director of Public Works: City Climate Action Plan Municipal Operations Committee Update -** Discussion tabled.
- 4. Olivia Teel, City Forester -** Discussion tabled.
- 5. Chair’s comments and amendments to agenda**
 - a. Tour of Recycling Center -** EAC members have been invited to tour the recycling center and yard waste center on Monday, September 18 at 9:00 AM.
 - b. Rock and Grow Event -** Will be held at the Ice House on August 27.
- 6. Board comments and announcements - None**
- 7. Committee reports**
 - a. Bethlehem Backyards for Wildlife (Jane Cook) –** The work in the gardens up on the Hoover Mason Trestle continues as scheduled. With the irrigation system working correctly this year and a couple of good rains recently, things are really lush, and most of the weeds are getting squeezed out by the native perennials, so things are happy up there. The Southside Greenway Meadow’s surrounding pathway is all clear of weed growth thanks to a dedicated group of new volunteers. A memorial bench to honor Ilse Stoll is on order and will be installed this fall.
 - b. Green Committee (Ben Felzer) –** The next committee meeting will be on Tuesday, August 15.
 - c. Bird Town PA (Vibhor Kumar) –** There
 - d. Waste Reduction Committee (Katie Trembler) –** No report
 - e. Transportation Committee (Ben Guthrie) –** No report
- 8. External committee reports**
 - a. Monocacy Creek Watershed Association (Jane Cook) –** On July 21, the staff of the Northampton County Parks and Recreation Department had a day-long bus

tour to visit special project sites all over the County. Gertrude Fox Conservation Area at Center Street and Route 22 was one of the featured parks, and MCWA President Michael Harrington led the tour along the loop trail, highlighting all the riparian buffer work, live stakes areas, and the native trees and shrubs we have been planting in this 8-acre park the past two years. That same weekend, Bath Borough had several Monocacy Creek fundraisers including a spaghetti supper and a tricky tray event. There was also a Tap Talk at the Red Wolf Bar and Grille to give people a casual way to learn more about the Creek and what concerns as well as what good things are happening along the Creek in Bath and downstream into Bethlehem. Monocacy Park Day will be on Saturday, September 23, from 10 am to 1 pm. Outdoors at Illick's Mill and in the large pavilion across the creek. More details as the date nears!

- b. **Saucon Creek Watershed Association (Mike Topping)** – No report.
- c. **City Council (Councilwoman Wilhelm)** - Lynn will be meeting with Councilwoman Wilhelm next week to discuss EAC initiatives.

9. Old business

- a. **Air Quality Study (Ben F.)** - There was a press conference on August 2, 2023 to announce a joint effort between Lehigh and Northampton Counties to conduct a regional air quality study, known as Breathe Lehigh Valley. The study is being led by Breena Holland and Andrea Wittchen. The goal is to collect one full year's worth of data and assess the impact of local warehouse and logistics facilities on local air quality.
- b. **Climate Action Plan (Lynn)** - On November 15th a public event is planned at City Hall where each internal implementation committee will report on what work has been done on the CAP strategies to date. The City will also be unveiling a climate challenge for the public.
- c. **Drinking Fountains (Lynn)** - Lynn and Ben F. will be meeting with the Director of Public Works and other City staff on August 16 to discuss the possibility of adding more public drinking fountains.

10. New business

- a. **EAC budget (Lynn)** - The EAC will need to prepare a budget request this fall. Lynn did some research regarding the cost of purchasing a new tent with the EAC logo and table. Due to cost, it may be more practical to purchase a tablecloth with the logo (\$168). The budget request may also include future plantings, Bird Town events, and continuing funding to host the EAC website.

11. Citizen's comments

- a. **Lisa Pammer (Green Pond Packaging)** - Green Pond Packaging is a local company focused on reducing negative environmental impacts of packaging.
- b. **Kathy Fox (Bethlehem Food Co-Op)** - The Food Co-Op is currently seeking candidates for the upcoming organizational elections. They are also preparing RFPs for a general contractor as they move to internal construction of the store. They are targeting an opening date in the first quarter of 2024.

- c. **Shelby Carr and Amy Zimmerman** - Seeking study participants for an interview study regarding trash and trash haulers in South Bethlehem. Those interested in participating should email kaj322@lehigh.edu.

12. Next Meeting

- a. Meeting Date – September 7, 2023

13. Adjourn – Meeting adjourned at 7:58 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Ben Guthrie, Secretary