

Attendees: EAC Members: Lynn Rothman (Chair), Mike Topping (Vice Chair), Elisabeth Cichonski (Secretary), Ben Guthrie, Beth Behrend, Brian Nicas, Ben Felzer. Katharine Targett Gross (Sustainability Officer at Lehigh), Jane Cook (Monocacy Creek Watershed Association & Bethlehem Backyards for Wildlife), Alejandra Soler (Allentown Environmental Advisory Council), Mike Albanese (Citizen).

Call to Order @ 7:05 PM

1. **Approval of minutes (April):** Motion made to approve the April minutes by Brian, seconded by Lynn. The April minutes were approved unanimously.
2. **Place citizens' comments on agenda:** Mike A. asked if bicycles are being incorporated into long term planning for projects with the EAC. The EAC currently does not have any projects scheduled for 2020 relating to bicycles but wrote a letter in support of the pedestrian bridge. Brian N. suggested contacting the Coalition for Appropriate Transportation. Alejandra suggested reaching out to Brian H. Citizens' Climate Lobby- Lehigh Valley appreciates the EAC's support of the City Council Resolution supporting the Energy Innovation & Carbon Dividend Act which passed unanimously at the April 21 City Council meeting. Lynn was one of 2 people who called in during the public comment period to read the EAC's letter of support.
3. **Chair's comments & amendments to agenda:** None.
4. **Board comments and announcements:** The City held an Arbor Day celebration. Ben attended the EAC Network meeting at which Lynn presented. Katharine held an Earth Day related event virtually. Ben found a student to participate in an Environmental Engineering Stormwater Management Internship. The EAC's Solar Committee hopes to reconvene next month. Lynn asked Amy True to help finish up flyers for the EAC.
5. **Committee reports:**
 - a. **Bethlehem Backyards for Wildlife (BBFW):** No report. The work that BBFW is focused on right now is the Hoover Mason Trestle & Rose Garden. Jane hopes to be able to complete this with her husband within the next month. The EAC send our condolences to Martha Christine and her family for the recent loss of her father.
 - b. **Waste Reduction Committee:** Alejandra spoke about Allentown's plastic-free certification program beginning with a 15-question maximum online assessment that businesses can submit and get level 1 certification, after that the businesses create their own plastic-reduction. At level 2, businesses would develop a personalized plan to reduce their use of plastics. At level 3, an inspection would be performed to confirm businesses met their Level 2 goals and validate their status as plastic-free. Allentown's Mayor is already in support of this program, which Elisabeth noted would help with the Bethlehem EAC's Waste Reduction Committee's issue with credibility with our Green Restaurant program. Lynn

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suggested that the Committee draft a letter for the EAC's consideration to submit to Councilman Reynolds or City Council. Lehigh University is creating a similar committee/plan. Ben G. suggested that we reach out to the Downtown Association and mention that to save money and reduce waste, restaurants should stop handing out utensils since people are mostly eating at home.

- c. **Green Committee:** Brian followed up on City tree inventory status and based on the current COVID situation, it did not seem likely that the City Forester will proceed with any of this work this year. Brian will follow up to confirm his plan.

6. External committee reports:

- a. **City Council:** Lynn read the EAC's letter in support of the City's Resolution on the Energy Innovation & Carbon Dividend Act.
- b. **Planning:** The EAC has not received any updates from the Planning Commission's Office.
- c. **Zoning:** No Report.

7. Unfinished business:

- a. **Climate Action Plan:** Ben F. and Lynn participated in the Climate Action Plan Working Group meeting on May 1. The EAC's responses to the City's Climate Action Plan survey were submitted in April. A public engagement meeting is projected for May/June.
- b. **Ice House Programs:** No update.
- c. **Lehigh University Tree Inventory:** About 1 year ago, Lehigh University students were trained to take tree measurements and collect data. A few months ago, another key stakeholder's meeting was held to discuss next steps to continue fully updating GIS map. Due to the COVID situation, LU is not sure if they will be able to continue with this work until the Fall semester.

8. New business:

- a. **EAC Network Conference:** Ben F. and Lynn attended the EAC Network Conference, held virtually on May 1st and 2nd. Ben F. attended a networking/break-out session, but reported that most people just had casual conversation. They both attended the next session, covering DCNR grants. There is a DCNR (Department of Conservation and Natural Resources) grant writing workshop and webinars to help train participants in grant writing. Lynn participated in the EAC Best Practices panel. Other interesting topics noted were: Portfolio Manager (an energy and water tracking program), Sustainable Pennsylvania Community Certification (a municipality's performance recognition for achieving their sustainability goals), Best Communications Practices, Stormwater Management, and Climate Change and COVID-19.

Adjourn @ 8:11 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Elisabeth Cichonski, Secretary