

**Bethlehem Environmental Advisory Council
General Meeting
September 5, 2019**

Attendees: EAC Members: Lynn Rothman (Chair), Mike Topping (Vice Chair), Brian Hillard, Beth Behrend, Brian Nicas (acting Secretary for meeting).

Citizens - Connor Burbridge, Maxine Gillespie (Resident), Elke Rockwell, Josie Miserendino, Lauren Fosbenner, Ben Guthrie

Meeting called to order @ 7:05 PM

1. **Approval of Minutes:** Motion to approve the minutes of the August 1st meeting was made by Kathy Fox, seconded by Brian Nicas. The August minutes were approved unanimously. Motion to approve the minutes of the special meeting on August 8th to review proposals submitted to the City to write a climate action plan made by Mike Topping, seconded by Brian Nicas. The minutes of the special meeting were unanimously approved.
2. **Citizens Comments:**

A big thank you to the EAC members who presented to the Central Moravian Church group regarding EAC activities.

Announcement by resident regarding the forum on Climate Change. Allentown, Bethlehem and Easton EAC reps will be panelists. October 16th, 11:00 am to 12:30 PM at Kirkland Village. The program is designed to spotlight what some communities are doing.
3. **Chair's comments:**
 - Alliance for Sustainable Communities has provided two reports on Cafes/Restaurants and sustainability and one on Climate Action Plans. Students may be at the EAC meeting in October to discuss. Can visit the site: <https://www.sustainlv.org/act-locally/internships-with-the-alliance/reports-posters-articles-by-interns/>
 - We were invited to speak with girl scouts on September 17th at 5:00 PM. If anyone is interested, please let Lynn Rothman know.
 - The EAC solar proposed ordinance: Darlene Heller, Director of Planning and Zoning, would like to meet with the EAC over the next several weeks to discuss the ordinance and its goals.
 - A letter was sent to the new City Forester to welcome him to the city.
 - Amendments to agenda – under new business, informational sheets we have been working on for the EAC
4. **Board Comments:**
 - Mike Topping - Hugh Moore Park activity -need advisement on the Shad tank that is located there – what are the protocols to maintain the shad tank and ensure it is kept in good shape for the fish.
 - Mike Topping – Lehigh Valley Watershed Conference on October 15th, 2019 at Lehigh University. \$50.00 to attend.
 - Kathy Fox – World Climate Strike on September 20th. Several local groups organizing a climate strike – Payrow Plaza at 2:00-5:00. Several speakers and march planned.
 - Kathy Fox – Michael Mann will be speaking on Tuesday Sept. 24th Mid Atlantic Renewable Energy Association. Located at Tech Park in Breinigsville, PA.

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- Kathy Fox – next Parking Authority meeting, EAC will be speaking. It is at 4 PM on September 25th.
- Brian Nicas – thank you to the citizen who spoke at the most recent city council meeting supporting a future plastic bag ban in the city.
- Kathy Fox - Friday Sept. 27th, the Unitarian Universalist Church is conducting a plastics seminar including a movie and several local leaders and groups. EAC member Beth Behrend will be one of the speakers.
- Sept. 29th – EAC recycling tour with the City of Bethlehem
- Beth Behrend –EAC’s proposed plastic bag ban must be on hold until July 1, 2020 due to State of PA ban of bag bans. Beth presented the designs of the reusable bags created by students, which will be used as fundraiser. Each bag is \$8.00. Funding goes for environmental projects at the schools.

5. Committee Reports:

- a. BFFW: not present.
- b. Community Energy Efficiency Initiative (CEEI): Recent events: Back to school event at Hispanic center. 500+ backpacks were distributed, as well as flyers regarding Energy Efficiency at Home in English and Spanish.
October 2nd is Energy Efficiency Day.
Climate Action Network is being established and mission statement is being developed.
Sunday Sept 22 12-5 Wescosville Memorial Park – National Drive Electric Event.

6. External Committee reports: None.

7. Unfinished Business:

- a. Pollinator Program – Broad St islands are owned by the City, not the state. Pollinator program on hold until Spring.
- b. Climate Action Plan –City interviewing firms that submitted proposals in response to the City’s request for proposals. Selection process moving ahead.

8. New Business

- a. Amy True assisting EAC with promotional brochure (double sided- English and Spanish) on Sustainability. Brochure was passed around. Looking for any comments on the brochure - Contact Lynn with any recommendations or comments.
Brian and Elisabeth attended a meeting of the Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce. The Chair of the Chamber of Commerce’s Energy and Environmental Committee will speak at our November meeting.

9. Agenda for the next meeting

Meeting Adjourned @ 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Nicas