

ALBANY TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

Kempton Fire Company Social Hall

2461 Route 143, Kempton, Pennsylvania

Monday May 1, 2023

7:30 - 8:30 pm

Attending: Bracken Brown, Chair; Anita Zawada, Noah Rauch, Tom Kerr and Stephanie Stoudt

Absent: Randy Hensinger, Laurie Goodrich

Secretary's Report: Minutes for April 2023 circulated by email and at meeting. Minutes approved unanimously.

Public Forum

Current Activities

Noah is ready for tomorrow's presentation, just making some last-minute changes. He will also be the tech guy for the event to make sure everything works correctly. Bracken will have the info board and handouts for the participants.

No mow is back in action. Bracken is bringing stakes just in case someone wants to take some home after the presentation.

Roadside clean up went well - all of stony run valley road was addressed by the group and John Moriarty cleaned up portions of 737. It was a successful clean up. The volunteers filled a truck quarter full, and anything picked up is better than being on the roadway. Numerous people reached out saying they could not come Saturday but took a portion of the road and did the cleanup at their own convenience. No pictures were taken of the event.

Public Programs

Randy previously mentioned somebody was interested in having a presentation on water quality. Laurie reached out to the Delaware River Basin Commission, and they were interested in presenting. There is good potential for other future events on water issues.

Bracken reached out to an East Stroudsburg faculty member to see if they would present on their findings with the tick study. They would potentially be interested in presenting this fall.

Laurie said the Game Commission could present on mammal research - prime martins, bears, etc.

Old Business

Social media has been pretty quiet, but we get reasonable engagement on most of our posts. When Tom shares on the Kempton Community page it brings lots of attraction to our EAC events.

We can try to start posting pictures of places around Kempton.

New Business

Bracken was at the PA “We Conserve” conference last week and said it was a great event. He sat through a program on becoming accustomed to solar farms in your area. The presenter was an old PA extension educator giving ideas for township ordinances on solar farms. PA has not approved community solar projects yet, but it is moving in that direction. They mentioned there is lots of projects down the road – so it may be of interest to looking into a conjoined approach between townships. He stated that we need to make the townships aware about the clean-up with solar – it is expensive but over 90% of the material is recyclable. He also gave the idea that while developers want to move into existing farmland, townships should look at ordinances of having them use forested land instead. The website below is a great resource for planning commissions – as it can be a reliable resource on what to do and what not to do.

Lastly, the only animal that can graze underneath the panels is sheep. 😊

Marcellus.psu.edu/solar

American Forest Foundation – still in conversation about how to do a mailing to landowners with over thirty acres. Tom said an email blast is possible through his portal. He has no way of going direct to landowners with over thirty acres though. It would come to a couple thousand dollars for the mailing if the outside program would do it, so we are looking at doing an email blast instead. Tom said the mailing could happen later this summer.

Meeting concluded at 8:10 PM

Minutes taken by Steph Stoudt