

ALBANY TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL (EAC) MEETING MINUTES

Kempton Fire Company Social Hall 2461 Route 143 Kempton,
Pennsylvania

Monday, December 5, 2024 7:30 PM - 8:34 PM

Attending: Chairperson Bracken Brown, Anita, Zawada, Noah Rauch, Thomas Kerr, Barbara Jucker, and Dale Derr.

Chair: Chairperson Brown observed that council member Laurie Goodrich had resigned her membership in hopes of beginning a similar inspired community function in the Schuylkill County township where she lives. She passed along her fondest thanks for the support, cooperation, and spirit that the EAC members had shown her during her time with the council. She will remain connected with us, of course, as both a resource and friend.

Secretary's Report: The minutes were shared online to EAC members by Laurie Goodrich. There were no changes to the minutes. Tom Kerr motioned to approve them and it was seconded by Noah Rauch. The minutes were approved unanimously. Dale Derr was asked to record the December 2024 EAC meeting minutes.

Agenda

Announcements: There were no announcements. **Discussion:**

- Noah Rauch led discussion on non-native shrubs, which could become a topic for a future evening educational program.
- Barb Jucker shared that she had access to high quality photos that compared native and non-native plants, which could be used online at our Facebook page or at our in-person educational programs. Tom Kerr offered his support of using the *What's Happening in Kempton* Facebook posts to promote better community awareness and measures to prevent the planting and spread of non-native plants. Barb Jucker

offered to invite plant expert Barbara Ritzheimer to host an educational program on the topic in April 2025.

- The EAC members shared their thoughts and observations following the Solar Power public meeting co-hosted by the Planning Commission and EAC at the social room in November 2024. Approximately 45 people attended with discussion. There was good crosstalk on a wide array of issues. The slides that Noah Rauch produced and shared received great reviews from many people, especially from the Planning Commission members and Township Engineer Joe Body, who facilitated much of the discussion. While the public meeting did not set goals and objectives for ordinances, it was appreciated as informational for everyone. Bracken Brown invited EAC members to continue to seek topics with community interest, much as solar power turned out to be, for future public meetings.
- Dale Derr led discussion on the Albany Township Tomorrow Fund (ATTF), hosted by the Hamm family through the Berks County Community Foundation. Several ideas for grant proposals shared, to include: signage for our EAC meetings and events, plantings to create or further develop riparian buffers along our water sources, and creating a source for honoraria for our guest speakers. Bracken Brown encouraged everyone to come to next meeting with developments and any other suggestions.

Programs and Activities:

Bracken Brown led discussion on the EAC slate of educational programs, which shall include:

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| The American Coyote | TBD Feb 2025 |
| Local Native vs Non-native Plants | TBD Apr 2025 |
| Hawk Mountain Native Plants and Trees Sale | May 17, 10 AM - 3 PM May 18, 10 AM - 2 PM |
| Kempton Fair Display | Jun 12 - 14 |
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| Topics in Development | |
| Astronomy | |
| Acquatics Biology | |
| Forestry | |
| Regional Geology | |
| Herbaceous Riparian Buffers to Water Sources | |
| Bats | |
| Invasive Loosestrife | Add presentation to Facebook page Re: 09.09.2024 EAC Minutes |
| Regional Natural History | Add presentation to Facebook page Re: 09.09.2024 EAC Minutes |

The EAC meeting ended at 8:34 PM.
Minutes recorded and submitted by Dale Derr.