

ALBANY TOWNSHIP, BERKS COUNTY
Environmental Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
Monday January 5, 2026 – 7:30 PM
Kempton Fire Company, 2461 Route 143 Kempton, PA 19529

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Albany Township Environmental Advisory Council was called to order at 7:31 PM by Chairman Noah Rauch.

Present:

EAC Members:

Noah Rauch, Chairman
Thomas Kerr, Vice-Chairman
Garrett Schorran, Secretary
Barbara Jucker

Also Present:

Absent: Anita Zawada (attending Planning Commission meeting)

REORGANIZATION

All current officers indicated a willingness to remain in their respective positions. Barb Jucker moved to retain the current officers, seconded by Garrett Schorran. Motion unanimously carried.

- Chairman: Noah Rauch
- Vice Chairman: Thomas Kerr
- Secretary: Garrett Schorran

Albany Township Planning Commission moved their meeting up to 7:30, so Anita Zawata is unable to make the EAC meeting. If Anita approves, it was suggested to move EAC meeting up to 7:00 or 7:15 so she can attend until the EAC roster is filled out.

Original ordinance establishing the EAC was distributed by Noah for background and guidance for current EAC membership.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of December 1, 2025, were distributed to the members for their review and comment. After discussion, a motion to approve the minutes was made by Barb Jucker and seconded by Tom Kerr. The motion was unanimously carried and the minutes of the meeting of December 1, 2025 were approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Public Programs:

- Noah noted that funds may be available via request and agreement from the supervisors to cover possible presenter costs.
- **March: IN PROGRESS:** Noah contacted Tom Keller regarding a Mountain Lion (or other) presentation for March. Suggested a Tuesday, 7:00 P.M. presentation time, however this is flexible.

- **May:** IN PROGRESS: Noah noted the bat rehab group have not responded (possible hibernation), however has a contact at Fort Indiantown Gap who is a bat biologist and is a possible lead for a presentation.
- **July:** IN PROGRESS: Habitat Restoration or Forest Ecology presentation. Doing an outdoor nature walk with species ID program at the Township park is current plan, and offers a great way to collaborate with the Parks and Rec committee.
- **August:** Noah in talks with Edge of the Woods for a pollinator meadow program Barb inquired about doing an acorn propagation/ oak restoration program, ideal for late fall, which was positively received.

Social Media:

- Noah will post winter scene photo contest on the EAC page, as well as two invasive weed posts (Japanese Knotweed and English Ivy). Jury is still out on whether Albany Township Residents counts as Invasive weeds or just invasive, so no social posts planned for those yet!

Recruitment:

- Noah and Tom have inquired with a few people to grow the EAC committee. If any committee member thinks of someone who would be a strong addition let the EAC know and bring them to a meeting!

Solar Ordinance:

- A draft version of the Solar Ordinance is with the Planning commission. Data Centers are the newest change in development interest and Noah brought literature for the committee to review. Currently, the Township would like to bundle the Solar and Data Center Ordinance. EAC action item homework is to do some reading on Data Center development in the news, particularly State laws which may supersede local ordinance and how local ordinance still governs Data Center development. This is still fluid, Federal and State Legislation or Regulatory interpretations are being debated now.

NEW BUSINESS

- Noah distributed a list of potential EAC topics drafted a few years ago. A number of the items were completed, however there are fresh ideas on the list as well as possible opportunities to revisit previous work.

In order of importance for EAC members to help guide the Supervisors and educate the public:

- A. Data Centers
- B. Zoning and its effects on land use/environmental impacts
- C. Regenerative Agriculture

Data Centers take current priority with intended bundling with the Solar Ordinance. Perhaps an AI generated movie of Noah fighting Japanese Knotweed with spent uranium from a data center power plant dropped via drone will help with EAC recruitment!

Joke of the Month!

Many thanks to Thomas Kerr for January's joke: What do you call a group of two crows? An attempted murder!
Noah has February's joke on deck.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:13 PM a motion to adjourn was made by Garrett Schorran and seconded by Barbara Jucker. The motion was unanimously carried.

Humbly Submitted by Garrett Schorran, Secretary