

ALBANY TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

Kempton Fire Company Social Hall

2461 Route 143, Kempton, Pennsylvania

Monday December 4, 2023

7:30 - 8:30 pm

Attending: Bracken Brown, Anita Zawada, Tom Kerr, Randy Hensinger and Dale Derr. **Absent:** Noah Rauch, Laurie Goodrich.

Secretary's Report: Minutes were circulated by email and at meeting. Minutes reviewed and approved unanimously.

New Member Welcome: Randy introduced Dale Derr as our newest member.

Current Activities

Township Tour: Per Nov 2023 meeting, it was decided we should hold another tour in future to visit the other sites, such as streambank restoration, Bolichs meadow, Hawk Mountain forest restoration, etc. Laurie mentioned we might be able to get PGC to talk about Pine Swamp gamelands management. These topics were discussed at the Dec 2023 meeting, but no further action reported, taken, or proposed.

Windbreak Planting: Randy opened discussion on the Burkholder farm concerns. The family is acceptable to the EAC's suggestions for creating a natural planting windbreak as a line-of-sight barrier to the proposed industrial farming. The family is leaving it to EAC to decide the species of plants that will be needed for a proper windbreak.

Social Media: No further action was taken to set up a calendar and have each member be responsible for creating a post for a certain month. It was continued from last month to promote advisories on Albany website with post and link for instance. As available, Noah will bring calendar to an EAC meeting. Noah and Bracken can make posts if we all create them. All EAC members are encouraged to continue sharing posts on own pages.

Tom recommended EAC approach photographer Lloyd Lutz for specific scenes we would like to use in our 2024 posts. All agreed that Lloyd could be a good partner to our social media efforts.

Dale suggested a no-cost access to developing promotional material through the Kutztown University Communications Design Department's annual Design-a-Thon where students work on projects for not-for-profit organizations. The students take the project ideas on a Friday evening and present results late on Saturday afternoon. If EAC has project ideas, Dale will complete the registration for the March 2024 event.

Public Programs:

Tom was thanked for setting up a display at the KCC Christmas Social. There was no EAC speaker when called upon by the emcee.

Water and stream quality in township was discussed. Bracken recalled that Noah had contacted Stroud Water Center for a program presentation. There was no further discussion on Trout Unlimited as a water quality program presenter.

The PA Game Commission program in mid March on Fishers and Martens was discussed, but no steps taken to announce the program or make plans to host it.

A Native American history program was discussed, but will hold off to hear the results of the Lenape program held November 18th at Hawk Mountain to see if it may serve the township.

Farmland raptors was discussed, but no further action taken.

There was no discussion on Bats as a program topic, which was documented in the Nov 2023 minutes.

Dale offered to reach out to his friend Kimberly Murphy, CEO at Berks Nature to explore possible program presentations by that organization. He asked for suggested topics to discuss with her.

Discuss topics at next meeting and arrange tentative schedule. Also would be good to have another walk or two in park, birds or butterflies.

New Business

Tom continued discussion about a joint meeting with Parks & Recreation as early as next month to share 2024 goals, objectives, and plans. We need someone to arrange the meeting.

Bracken led a discussion on Ordinances that affect environmental expectations, broader laws, and modern day concerns. He has prepared a letter to the Board of Township Supervisors requesting that specific action be taken to update township ordinances that impact us environmentally. He mentioned that Penn Future, an advocacy group, has prepared templates for improving ordinances that we could jointly use with the Township Supervisors.

Bracken led a discussion on regional EAC planning. Further discussion may be needed, but he envisioned bringing townships adjoining Albany Township into discussions and plans. Dale pointed out that a regional effort would present well when submitting for grant funding, especially with state government authorities.

Tom asked about the 2024 budget and our end of year 2023 spending. The annual EAC budget is \$1000.00, which has been mostly used for transportation expenses. There was discussion, but more detail will be presented at the Jan 2024 meeting.

Adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Submitted by,

Dale G. Derr

Albany EAC Recorder