

ALBANY TOWNSHIP, BERKS COUNTY
Environmental Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
Monday February 2, 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 7:01 PM by Chairman Noah Rauch.

Present:

EAC Members:

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

Also Present:

Absent:

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of January 5, 2026, were distributed to the members for their review and comment. After discussion, a motion to approve the minutes was made by Tom Kerr and seconded by Anita Zawada. The motion was unanimously carried and the minutes of the meeting of January 5, 2026 were approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Recruitment:

- Angie Wagner was unable to attend this meeting, however she expressed interest in joining the EAC.
- Noah has two more contacts in mind and will reach out to them shortly.
- All members are encouraged to solicit high quality potential recruits!

Public Programs:

- Noah reached out to two different groups regarding presentations on mountain lions and bats. So far neither have confirmed availability to give public presentations. The PA Game Commission has changed the approval protocol for someone to give a presentation which has added some time and potential confusion so Noah will reach out again and see if the mountain lion presentation can be scheduled.
- Noah was able to book Noah for Julys program on forest ecology. Thank you Noah!
- The night time star-gazer program may be moved to next winter.

Social Media:

- A photo contest for best winter photo was shared on the EAC Facebook page and will be shared on some other community pages and the winner's photo will adorn our profile page!

Ordinance Development:

- Noah compiled a list of general concerns pertaining to local ecological impacts of data center development. Some concerns are similar to other types of infrastructure or building development, and some are fairly unique. Currently, largest differentiator is potential on-site power generation for data centers today. This list will be passed along to the planning commission and Board of Supervisors.
- The Board of Supervisors would like to vote on one package of ordinance updates. Other areas that fall under EAC advisory purview are timber harvest ordinance and weed ordinance.

NEW BUSINESS**Grants:**

- There is an opportunity to apply for a grant from the Albany Township Tomorrow Fund. Discussion was held regarding submitting a grant request for \$2,000 with the goal of upgrading 4 streams to the quality designation of "Exceptional Value/High Quality" designation by the PA DEP (Dept. of Environmental Protection) and EQB (Environmental Quality Board). This could give Albany Township more regulatory protection in the streams watersheds. Quality designation upgrades require macroinvertebrate data testing and more mapping work. Grant funds would be used to add a testing station, collect and test data, and develop aerial maps of the stream and watershed boundaries needed for quality designation upgrades by the state. Noah indicated the grant request form is fairly simple and he would undertake the project.

Microinternship w/ Kutztown University:

- Tom Kerr spoke with a professor at KU about possible student internship doing a project sponsored by EAC. Noah recommended inventorying key environmental resources in the township as a good student internship project and will draft an internship request draft with a few more details and pass it to Tom Kerr.

Joke of the Month!

Many thanks to Noah Rauch for February's joke of the month! (And more importantly, taking the heat off of myself for being the joke of the month). With gratitude, I volunteered for March's joke, so I have only managed to kick my can down the road a little bit!

What do you call a deer with no eyes? I have no eye deer! (No idear!) And bonus, what do you call a blind deer with no legs? Still no eye deer!

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:36 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