

ALBANY TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

Kempton Fire Company Social Hall
2461 Route 143, Kempton, Pennsylvania

Monday April 7, 2025

7:34 - 8:15 pm

Attending: Bracken Brown, Chair, Tom Kerr, Anita Zawada, Barb Jucker. Absent: Dale Derr Noah Rauch.

Secretary's Report: Minutes from February were reviewed and a motion to approve was seconded and approved by the committee members present.

Agenda

Announcements. EAC members will join the Planning Commission at the end of our meeting to discuss industrial scale solar township meeting round two.

Lion's Club Roadside clean up. Only six people participated in the roadside clean up event but collected 500lbs of garbage from Pine Creek, Stoney Run Valley, 737, and Kempton Village roadsides. Garbage was thrown in the township provided a roll-off dumpster, thank you to the board of supervisors for supplying the dumpster.

Programs 2025

Barb Ritzheimer will present on Native plants for Pollinators on April 15th at the Fire company. Noah will provide tech support and Barb Jucker will provide cookies.

Noah Rauch will provide a forest management walk at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary on May 13 meeting at 4:30pm

Township PC Solar Ordinance: Met with the Planning commission to discuss the next round of township input moving towards a solar ordinance for the township. The meeting will take place on May 8th at 7pm. Joe Body will cover the bulk of the content as we address specifics such as setbacks, screenings, limiting environmental impacts and demolition specifics for a large-scale solar installation.

Other topics for 2025 programs:

Purple martin banding if the birds use the township park at Creek Road, would be a morning in July. (BMB)

Astronomy program in August, also featuring the township park/community center (BMB)

October/November Tick/Mosquito program or another PGC program.

Sign: Albany Township futures grant will be awarded soon, and we will cover the cost of the sandwich board with AT EAC logo.

Current activities:

Planning Commission and large-scale solar discussion. For the second meeting to discuss language for possible ordinance it was agreed that it would follow a similar format to the previous meeting, with Joe providing the bulk of the content as participants are asked to weigh in on/consider specifics of how a potential solar installation should be incorporated into the township. Emphasizing setbacks, viewshed, limiting environmental impacts through fencing, reflectivity, and run off, or who is responsible for eventual demolition/disposal of solar arrays.

Social media/education. Facebook continues to generate responses for meeting attendance. Noah Rauch will add an invasive plant species post in the coming week to continue to build the township native/invasive database.

New Business: Garrett Schorran was put forward as a potential addition to the vacant EAC seat, the group approved of inviting him on to the council and the board of supervisors agreed with the invitation.

The EAC meeting ended at 8:15 pm to allow EAC to attend Planning Commission meeting for discussion on industrial scale solar meeting.

Submitted by,

Bracken Brown EAC Chair