

ROSS TOWNSHIP Environmental Advisory Council

Ross Township
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OFFICERS

CHAIR
Caitlin Hulle

VICE CHAIR
Kristen Schawalder

SECRETARY
Susan Hockenberry

MEMBERS

Jennifer Deemer
Amanda Finkenbinder
William Murray
Cody Gill

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL AGENDA

February 17, 2022
7:00 PM



Not in Attendance: Susan Hockenberry, Jennifer Deemer, and Adam Ravenstahl. Amanda taking notes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Acceptance of the January 20, 2022 minutes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

At this time, citizens may address the Environmental Advisory Council on any issue. Only residents and taxpayers of the Township of Ross will be permitted to address the EAC. Speakers will be permitted to speak for a maximum of 5 minutes. Groups of people will be required to designate a spokesperson to represent them before the Council who may speak for a maximum of 10 minutes. Speakers are asked to use the microphone, clearly state their name and address for the record and keep comments brief and to the point. Please spell your name for the record.

Speakers are reminded that the EAC uses these comment periods as opportunities to gather information and not to respond directly to concerns raised. Information gathered will not be discussed at the current meeting, but instead will be referred by the Chair of the EAC, President to the Township Manager, Department Head and/or a Committee for review and to prepare an appropriate response which will be communicated to the entire EAC.

No questions asked.

RAIN BARREL PROGRAM

Review rebate proposal. Discuss plans to host a rain barrel workshop within township.

Will: Is there a comparison of rainfall in gallons to measure if we need to do more than the program? Or, to evaluate if this program is doing enough to prevent landslides.

Kristen recommends Will responds to email about this, and maybe Jen has some ideas/data. Thinks it's a good idea.

Caitlin will present this to the board during meeting in March once finalized.

Rain Barrel Workshop scheduled through Township on March 23. 16 people already interested. Adam to add to website for further promotion. Caitlin suggested one of us attend. Amanda said we could be a promotional partner.

STORMWATER LITERATURE

Review information in DEP handbook- discuss potential ways to improve and modernize.

Caitlin suggested we could create our own handouts. We will use existing DEP handout. Caitlin to ask Adam if stormwater PDF can be uploaded to Township website.

PROJECT UPDATES

Bus stop improvements; ALT Conservation; inventory of vacant land; Sammartino park.

Adam reshared grid email tonight with all related to Bus Stop Improvements.

Adam asked about Coal Tar Ordinance. Caitlin said we recommended ordinance and

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Design banner/poster for community involvement. Youth/Community outreach.

EAC to review banner for next week. If no other comments, we will order banner. Received good feedback. Adam to source high-res emblem.

Sydney (with high school) talked to Library about materials to put out. She thinks if school gets involved with rain barrel workshop, that would be beneficial. Environmental Club at school has been working on getting sustainable materials like plates and straws. Supply chain issues have posed challenges though. Club would like to attend upcoming rain barrel workshop. Will asked Sydney if there's interest in electricity/energy sources related to climate change. Will said he can speak with Club about this. Sydney said she will talk with club.

MISCELLANEOUS

Amanda and Caitlin discussed Keep PA Beautiful. Caitlin to ask Adam if Township will be involved this year. Asked advisory council to think about target areas to clean up.

Caitlin to add parking spot/tree planting ordinance to next month's agenda where Jen can discuss further. Caitlin to resend to all.

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Darlene Didonato: Was there enough people for a quorum? Caitlin: Yes, there is 5 people. Is Susan still part of the EAC? Re: Coal Tar, board might need a nudge. Can EAC fix Tree Harvesting Ordinance (I think Chapter 27)? We are seeing people cut down trees near Laurel Gardens. Can you evaluate ordinance and see if 30 is a realistic number? Thinks rain barrel programs might be exaggerated as a storm water mitigation technique. Wants to see other measures like Stream Restoration. Prevention is better. Perry Shoppes on hold, I think by DEP.

Lorilei Gallagher: 100 trees cut down behind home. Excited for rain barrel workshop to water plants. Ask for increase non impermeable space.

ADJOURNMENT