

ALBANY TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

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

Monday September 9, 2024

7:3 - 8:15 pm

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

Chair: Bracken welcomed Barb Jucker to EAC membership. He reviewed what the EAC has done in past few years and promised to send her bylaws.

Secretary's Report: Laurie distributed minutes from August. Minutes were reviewed and approved. Tom made motion to accept, Anita seconded. Vote Call: Bracken- yes, Tom-yes, Anita-yes, Laurie-yes, Barb-yes.

Agenda

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

September 24th Stormwater program. Flyer should go out early September with a **6 pm** start so please meet at Fire Company to set up chair at 5:15 pm. Some concern about the state of the Fire Company (Bracken checked with Steve H who said a lot of the items would be moved by then). Tom will prepare flyer and circulate so we can post around township, Tom will also share on social media and plan to bring cookies. Bracken will follow up with Dale to be sure arrangements and issue of signs printing to be resolved.

Other program topics for 2025

Laurie reported that Thomas Keller of PGC is willing to do another program next spring perhaps on Coyotes. He suggested March so we just need to let him know an exact date.

September Kempton celebration. Bracken will inquire about having an EAC table set up for the celebration on September 28.

Large scale solar fields would be topic for October or November meeting.

Please think about other educational topics relevant to township residents or activities for 2025.

Current activities:

Planning Commission and large scale solar discussion. Noah compiled and circulated all the suggestions or concerns from various EAC members related to environment and large scale

solar, and prepared hand out for the Planning Commission. Anita said she made copies for Planning Commission members.

Discussion of format for public meeting on solar followed. Discussion of having a moderator to help engage the public and perhaps showing a few elements on a screen and presenting ideas for ordinance or presenting questions, such as where in township should industrial scale solar be allowed. Tentatively, suggested Planning Commission should co-lead. Bracken and a PC member could present ideas, Tom was asked by group to be the moderator. Need someone from PC too.

Social media/education. There was good response on Facebook to the Loosestrife post. Noah could do another invasive species highlight. Bracken suggested these could be stored in folder to provide information series on Facebook for future reference. Possibly highlight value of native plants in next post too. Perhaps relative to which ones are timely for control.

Discussion ensued on other topics for social media series include general natural history of township, animal tracks, amphibian calls. Tom suggested we could also call on the mapping we had done, for posts, for example, *did you know* acres in agriculture, forest, soil types, etc.

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

Submitted by,

Laurie Goodrich, Albany Township EAC Secretary