



New Britain Township

Environmental Advisory Council

Kathleen Davis, Chair	MaryBeth McCabe, NBT Supervisor
Mary Margaret Briggs, Secretary	Alex Mullin, NBT
Kathleen Dutil, Member	
Lucy Jones, Member	
Carol Weston-Young, Member	

Minutes – February 5, 2025

Attended: K. Davis, M. Briggs, C. Weston-Young, K. Dutil, L. Jones, A. Mullin, M. McCabe

Regrets:

Meeting was called to order by K. Davis @ 7:01 pm.

Discussion:

- Approval of Minutes – C. Weston-Young motioned and M. Briggs seconded a motion to approve the December 2, 2024 minutes. The EAC unanimously approved the minutes.
- Consideration of Bowman's Hill grant for Demonstration Pollinator Garden (100 plants) was discussed. A sample layout was created by Anna Edling (community member); layout sample copies were distributed. K. Davis noted we have been given a grant for educational signage (\$300) and the NBT BOS also provided \$250 towards the garden. K. Davis noted how the educational component will be a benefit to the township, for MS4. M. Chalich suggested a "do not pick the flowers" sign. C. Weston-Young suggested we look into slate, reusable signs (Longwood Gardens). A. Edling offered slate (from her property) for the township to use. C. Weston-Young motioned and K. Davis seconded a motion to submit the grant application. The EAC unanimously approved the Bowman's grant application.
- Possibility of Bucks Beautiful Grant was discussed; this is a matching grant for native species projects that will beautify Bucks County. Jen Finelli is the contact person. A possible project to beautify the front of the township building was suggested. K. Davis spoke with chair of Parks & Rec (Jessica Young). EAC members are encouraged to attend next P&R meeting on Feb 18th to discuss the proposal. C. Weston-Young motioned and M. Briggs seconded a motion to submit the grant application (assuming P&R support). The EAC unanimously approved the support moving forward with Bucks Beautiful grant and partnering with P&R. Match can include volunteer hours, in lieu of funding. Deadline to apply is March 31st.
- Status of Township Ordinance amendments – comments by Pennsylvania Environmental Council and EAC were considered. The draft ordinance is now with Bucks County planning and NBT planning (and also EAC) for comment; then the New Britain Township Board of Supervisors will consider comments. The ordinance will be advertised for public comment (approximately Spring 2025).
- Strategies for reaching out to residents about topics such as planting natives, lighting, and stormwater control was discussed. K. Davis suggested we obtain township approval for publicity of



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events; M. Briggs suggested we work through S. Gelb for newspaper notices. Upcoming events - April 12 – NBT Easter bunny event; April 25-27 – A-day. The EAC will need volunteers for entire event (3 days).. Lou and Kathy Keller (Keller Landscaping, township residents) offered to provide their classic (1951) truck to draw attention to our booth.

- Rain Barrel workshop – food grade barrels (located in Allentown from Coca-Cola) are available for free, but there is the issue of picking them up. K. Davis is working out details – more information will be shared by K. Davis, when available.
- Other Business
 - Newsletter – February 14th. Idea for monthly email sign-up. Also add articles on mulch volcanos and rain garden. Likely to be mailed first or second week of April. Keep your eyes open for pollinator garden and rain barrel workshops.
 - K. Dutill raised concern about recent brush fires in the fall during our recent drought (off Upper Stump Rd) in NBT. K. Dutill suggested excess brush from trees in NBT could contribute to wildfires, such as those recently experienced in California. A robust discussion by all EAC members ensued, regarding environmental conditions (e.g. normal rainfall conditions of the Northeast USA vs. the normal, dry conditions of the southwest USA). The benefits of planting trees in the township was also discussed, with tree planting on township property supported by K. Davis, C. Weston-Young, M. Briggs, and L. Jones. M. McCabe pointed out residents are free to plant trees on their personal property. K. Dutill also noted some trees (in new developments) are planted too close to sidewalks, causing issues in the future with roots pushing up the sidewalk (requiring the resident to replace the sidewalk). M. McCabe noted this issue is addressed in ordinances currently under revision.
- Public comment on non-agenda items- K. Davis noted a Vice-Chair & secretary will be nominated and appointed at the next EAC meeting.
- Adjournment – A motion to adjourn the meeting was made By C. Weston-Young, seconded by K Dutill. Meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,


Kathleen Davis, Chair

*The next meeting of the Environmental Advisory Council of New Britain Township will take place on **Wednesday, March 5, 7:00 pm** at the New Britain Township Building, 207 Park Avenue, Chalfont, Pa. Agenda is posted to the Township website prior to the meeting date at www.newbritaintownship.org.*