



New Britain Township

Environmental Advisory Council

Kathleen Davis, Chair	Cynthia Jones, Supervisor, Liaison
Lucy Jones, Vice - Chair	Alex Mullin, Secretary, NBT Staff
Mary Margaret Briggs, Member	
Geraldine Reuter, Member	
Carol Weston-Young, Member	

Minutes – June 3rd, 2026

Attended: M. Briggs, C. Weston-Young, L. Jones, G. Reuter, A. Mullin, C. Jones

Regrets: K. Davis

Meeting was called to order by L. Jones @ 7:00 pm.

Discussion:

- Approval of Minutes – C. Weston-Young motioned, and G. Reuter seconded a motion to approve the May 6th, 2026 minutes. The EAC unanimously approved the motion.
- The EAC members discussed ongoing Bird Town initiatives, including progress on identifying locations for additional Bird Town signage throughout the Township. A request regarding the cost of additional signs has been submitted to Bird Town and the committee is awaiting a response*. The EAC members also discussed participation in the AARK tabling event held the previous weekend and opportunities to continue community outreach and education efforts. *Post-meeting note - the cost of the signs is \$60 each. The EAC will need to discuss this cost at the next EAC meeting in July.
- It was noted that Bird Town operates as a subcommittee of the Environmental Advisory Council and is open to adding additional EAC members interested in supporting its initiatives. The EAC members were reminded that Bird Town meetings are held at 6:30 p.m. immediately prior to EAC meetings.
- The EAC members reviewed the status of the Pollinator Demonstration Garden and noted that the plant selections support the goals of the Bird Town program by providing habitat and food sources for birds and pollinators.
- Discussion focused on garden maintenance, including watering and deer management. Anna Edling reported applying deer deterrent spray due to plant damage and indicated she will continue treatments weekly. Members noted approximately \$20 remains in grant funding and discussed its use for eligible project-related expenses.



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- L. Jones noted an unidentified chair had been placed in the garden area and discussed potential fencing around portions of the Pollinator Demonstration Garden. No fencing is currently being considered for the Berry Zone.
- L. Jones reviewed the status of the Berry Zone planting area and reported that eight berry bushes remain alive and in good condition. Stakes and fencing have been installed around the plants for protection and identification purposes.
- L Jones reported that mountain mint will be added to the planting area using leftover plants from the Native Plant Presentation. Discussion also occurred regarding the presence of thistle and other unwanted vegetation surrounding the berry planting area. The EAC members were uncertain which organization or party is responsible for managing weed removal within the area and indicated that additional clarification may be needed.
- The EAC members also discussed maintenance of the rain barrel serving the area and noted that the barrel may need to be refilled following mischievous removal of the spigot.
- The EAC members discussed the June 1 Board of Supervisors meeting and the Board's consideration of a potential ordinance related to single-use plastic bag reduction. G. Reuter expressed her willingness to assist with additional research and information gathering to support future discussions on the topic.
- The EAC members discussed the importance of developing a comprehensive case study by reviewing ordinances adopted in other municipalities, gathering information regarding implementation experiences, and engaging local businesses to better understand potential impacts. G. Reuter reported plans to meet with representatives of the Chalfont-New Britain Business Alliance to discuss the topic and gather input from the business community.
- Discussion included outreach strategies used by other municipalities. The EAC members referenced conversations with representatives from Doylestown Borough and discussed the importance of directly engaging business owners to better understand operational concerns and implementation challenges. The EAC members also suggested contacting larger retailers, including Giant, to obtain feedback regarding the potential impacts of a plastic bag reduction ordinance.
- Several EAC members emphasized the importance of relying on legitimate and verifiable data sources when presenting information to the public and decision-makers. Discussion also focused on addressing concerns raised by residents and businesses and ensuring that potential weaknesses or criticisms of a plastic bag reduction initiative are understood and addressed as part of any future recommendation.
- The EAC members discussed examples from neighboring municipalities, including Newtown Township's plastic bag ordinance, and noted the value of learning from communities that have



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already implemented similar measures. Additional resources were identified, including conservation organizations, environmental council networks, and educational programs offered through the Bucks County Conservation District.

- Members discussed resources available through environmental organizations, including WeConservePA and the Bucks County Conservation District, and noted an upcoming conservation-focused event at Honey Hollow on June 11th.
- Discussion also touched on the possibility that plastic bag reduction efforts could serve as an initial step toward broader environmental initiatives in the future. The EAC members expressed interest in obtaining additional information regarding the costs associated with paper bag alternatives and how those costs may affect businesses and consumers.
- G. Reuter and J. Murano thanked C. Jones for clarifying during the Board of Supervisors meeting that the agenda item was intended as a discussion item rather than a decision-making action.
- L. Jones discussed potential topics for the Township's 2026 Fall Newsletter, including microplastics, deer feeding, recycling and other green initiatives, Bird Town activities, native planting, pollinator habitat, and winter road salt application.
- Gary and Marie Lemmick, 17 Marshall Circle, expressed concerns regarding maintenance of the naturalized stormwater basin adjacent to their property. Concerns included weed growth, vegetation encroaching toward their driveway, drainage issues, and the overall condition of the basin. The residents noted they had submitted multiple service requests and inquired about maintenance practices and the possibility of installing a barrier or fence.
- C. Jones clarified that the EAC was not responsible for establishing the naturalized basin. C. Jones stated that she would communicate the residents' concerns to Township Manager and Public Works staff, and the Neshaminy Watershed Association in order to better understand maintenance requirements, prior direction provided for the site, and potential maintenance scheduling.
- Discussion included whether the EAC members should attend the upcoming Planning Commission meeting to observe proceedings and determine whether any environmental concerns should be raised.
- M. Briggs reviewed comments contained within the Township Engineer's review letter prepared by Gilmore & Associates. Discussion focused on the need for conservation easements, protection of environmentally sensitive areas, building coverage limitations, and impervious surface calculations. The EAC members also discussed opportunities for future bicycle trail connections and whether accommodation could be incorporated into the project design.



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- Additional discussion occurred regarding potential street tree variances and how such requests may affect overall environmental objectives. L. Jones asked for clarification regarding the EAC's role and responsibilities in reviewing land development plans. C. Jones responded that the review process continues to evolve and remains a work in progress due to the scheduling relationship between EAC meetings, Planning Commission meetings, and applicable review deadlines.
- Adjournment – A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by L. Jones, seconded by G. Reuter at 8:10pm. The EAC unanimously passed the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Lucy S Jones", written over a horizontal line.

Lucy Jones, Vice-Chair

*The next meeting of the Environmental Advisory Council of New Britain Township will take place on **Wednesday, July 1, 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.*