

MEETING: 03/05/2024

Opened at 6:02pm / City Hall 3rd Floor Conference Room & Virtually on Zoom

Attendees

Members	Public
Ian Kindle, Robert MacDonald, Paul Schalow, Mary Arlia	Molly Bilinski, Lisa Pammer
Associate Members: Tony Klapatch, Louisa Durkin, Josh Joseph, Haley Weber	Virtual: Maggie Beetstra, Kate Semmens

Agenda

EAC Organization and Priorities

Robert motioned to approve the agenda, Ian seconded. Approved 4-0-0.

Robert motioned to approve the February meeting minutes, Paul seconded. Approved 4-0-0.

Ian sent a reminder to the mayor's office regarding appointing an EAC planning commission member.

No further discussion on standing committees. Haley Weber, the city public works intern, expressed her interest in becoming an associate member. Ian motioned, Robert seconded. Haley was approved as an associate member 4-0-0.

Louisa will look into the description of what a student associate member should do, Haley will work with Louisa. Josh would like to see the student associate member be more of a representative for all area students, including Easton Area School District. **Ian will add a student representative report to the next meeting's agenda.** Josh Joseph accepted to become part of the communication committee.

Louisa Durkin would like to see a more formal letter or presentation at city council for the codes department to have someone at the city more familiar with environmental code enforcement in response to the Lafayette Trail hillside project and volunteered herself to write the letter. **Louisa will work with the communication & education committee.** Robert made a motion to draft a letter to city council with 2 days for the EAC to review with a quorum of at least 3 seated members in support, Ian seconded. Approved 4-0-0.

Easton Climate Action Plan

Kate presented the adaptation plan at last week's council meeting. Kate mentioned City Council Member Roger Ruggles comment regarding adding a per capita number which can be added to the plan, however complete emissions numbers are still required in the plan. City Council Member Frank Pintabone was connected with the appropriate people to talk to regarding adding transportation to the plan.

Louisa will look more into CAP action items.

Ian asked if the current EAC logo is sufficient, the general consensus was that the current logo is ok.

Mary gave an update regarding the compost program, she is waiting for Miranda Wilcha to respond. Robert would like to have a public survey. Discussion ensued on the best ways to handle municipal compost going forward. Josh mentioned Lafayette's ongoing efforts and challenges for introducing composting on campus. **Josh will try to organize an EAC trip to see Lafayette's composting efforts.** Haley mentioned the discussions within the public works department that have been stalled regarding composting & recycling.

Nick will reach out to Frank Pintabone regarding electric trolleys. Paul attended the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission meeting on February 21st, Paul inquired about the planned 25% increase of bicycle corridors added by 2030, and 50% by 2050, however there were no specific plans outlined in LVPC's report. Nick asked about the total miles of bicycle corridors. Paul also mentioned the sidewalk gap from LVPC's report on Canal St and suggested improving the sidewalk along North Delaware Drive (SR-611) to the list. The LVPC made note of these comments.

Kate asked about EV charging stations in the new parking garage and EV charging goals in our climate action plan, the city is concerned about having EV chargers within parking structures due to potential fire risk. Josh mentioned possible on street EV charging locations and Tony mentioned the S 3rd St and Northampton St surface parking lots.

Paul presented a UGI gas pipeline plant that is located at the corner of Snyder St and North Delaware Dr (SR-611) that could be used for increased green space downtown in relation to LVPC's priority climate action plan mentioning greenspace improvements along US-22. Haley mentioned the city is currently working on applying for grants relating to LVPC's CAP. **Paul and Haley will look more into the history and information for this parcel.** Josh mentioned possible plantings if this site is a brownfield.

Ian reminded the EAC of the Youth Climate Summit occurring at Nature Nurture Center April 19th and 20th and invited EAC members to join. Kate is also looking for general volunteers for the event:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B4EA9AC2DA6FDC07-47951385-youth#/>

Communications/Education

Mary mentioned the Emmaus EAC having an Earth Day cleanup and suggested for Easton to do something similar. Further discussion will be held at next month's meeting.

Louisa suggested getting Lafayette students to assist with code and ordinance discussion. Further discussion will be held at next month's meeting.

City Urban Forestry Update

Rob Christopher received a grant to plant fruit trees in Easton Urban Farm for May 23rd and is looking for additional volunteers.

Ian is continuing to work with the WeConserve GIS green space project, he will be making a presentation on April 16th at 7pm virtually. **Ian will put together a walking session.**

The EAC gathered at Sullivan Park last month for a site visit. Rob Christopher is discussing with a tree service to remove big trees that fell and restoring wetlands.

New Business

No new business.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30pm; motioned by Ian, seconded by Robert - passed 4-0-0.