

MEETING: 05/06/2025

Opened at 6:00pm / City Hall 3rd Floor Conference Room & Virtually on Zoom

Attendees

Members	Public
Nick Gorski, Ian Kindle, Mary Arlia (virtual) , Stacy Melvin, Robert MacDonald Associate Members: Tom Pritchett, Analise Draghi, Paul Schalow Absent Members: Tony Klapatch	Kate Semmens (virtual), Molly Bilinski (virtual), Rob Christopher, Brandon Sullivan, Cody Harding, Colleen O'Neill

Agenda

EAC Organization

Meeting called to order at 6:05 pm, At 6:05pm the meeting began recording.

May Meeting Minutes Approval

Motion made to approve the minutes with approved edits, Ian first and Rob second, 5-0

Public Comment

Colleen and Cody made public comments at the meeting. Both addressed the importance of the Wilson Warehouse issue. Colleen wants the EAC to speak with organizations of both governmental and public that share similar environmental interests that are in direct contact with the Wilson Warehouse. Colleen encouraged the EAC to look into the national wetlands and

other environmental impacts the development would directly and indirectly affect and have an inventory list sent to the Planning Commission for consideration in the matter at their next meeting on Wednesday, May 7th. In addition, Colleen educated the EAC on Pennsylvania Commonwealth, particularly the PA Green Amendment, which espouses the right that all Pennsylvanians have a right to clean air and clean drinking water.

Cody, in comments, spoke of interest and concern as an Easton resident about the warehouse development. He spoke of his concerns for the DEP updates and uncertainty of environmental permits for the development. In his background as a lawyer, he educated the EAC on emerging legal evidence and court cases that could bring legal precedence to any outcome for the proposed Wilson warehouse development.

Nick and Ian answered comments made on both subjects. Nick spoke generally, disapproving of development that impacts the environment negatively and encourages environmental considerations in developments. Both expressed interest in the national wetlands that may potentially be affected by the development. Tom included a comment pertaining to the wetlands, expressing background knowledge of the area in question and supported the notion of its potential impact.

Reports

Nature Nurture Center and CAP Task Force:

Kate reported the successful operation of the Youth Climate Summit. 100 students and several adult attendees on both days expressed interest and were educated in the environment. Tabling events were successful in support of these educational and volunteer operations. Survey results were made to gauge what was accomplished at the event generally. Most were educated throughout the run of the summit and many expressed continued interest in environmental education and support.

Brandon attended the event and included in his report that he worked with Nature Nurture Center in their operations of the event and its greater impact on environmental consciousness.

Future events were acknowledged. An event at Hugh Moore Park in collaboration with Community Bike Works starting June 7th was directly mentioned and how it will have positive effects on furthering environmental education and support.

Comment was made on if the CAP report was made available as of yet. Kate stated that as of right now it is still pending and will be produced once officially out.

The CAP Task Force meeting date for July was discussed, proposed dates of before and after the July meeting were introduced. The date was made clear to be officially made before the next EAC meeting.

Greenspace Committee:

Ian made a report of recent developments impacting the greenspace GIS survey. Comment was made that there is a possible problem entering the app that leads to the survey material and that troubleshooting measures are being introduced to figure out the source of the problem. A plan is made for a small survey group to form up at a later date to rectify the issue and carry out GIS surveying duties.

Side Street plantings were discussed. 7th and 8th street plantings were identified as having such plantings. Rob C. commented on the DCNR grants being used and priority targets for the grant engaged in street plantings. Ian spoke more in depth about barriers to current and future plantings in designated areas. Tom and Brandon made further comments, adding engagement with the planning commission and other collaborating entities from other municipalities regarding greenspaces.

Transportation Committee:

Nick attended a focus group for Safe Streets for All. He spoke of concerns for safe travel ability in unsafe areas currently. He identified pedestrian traffic in construction areas like the commodore project as an example. The Safe Streets initiative was held at Arborfest. Further Safe Street recommendations would be clarified by the end of the summer.

Waste and Recycling Committee:

Mary Spoke with Mark Reid, Sarah, and Katie regarding farm management and coordination regarding environmental concerns in the southside and broader Easton area. Continued work for street cleanups and environmental safety was addressed.

Communications Committee:

Robert M. spoke with Frank Graziano about communicating with the planning commission to have a planning commission member present at the meetings.

Ian and Rob C. spoke about using the current MailChimp email profile to use a means of communication to reach out to current EAC members, associate members, and other volunteers. Desire for MailChimp to be added to the agenda was approved and Nick agreed to create a designated EAC email account was discussed.

City Urban Forestry:

Rob C. stated that between 200 and 300 visitors attended Arborfest and the event was successful. Tracy to send details out for another event slated for October 25th. Greenspaces are currently being planned out and N. Delaware Drive is designated for plantings. Hackett Park Planting Project a continued success, with a Grant being looked into to provide electricity to the building. Brush cutting investigations are underway. Weeds in certain areas will be pruned and assist in vegetative growth. Free Plant giveaways to encourage growing plants in planning stages and tree planting projects are in progress throughout the city.

Lafayette Update:

Analise stated she will let Lafayette offices know of an opening student associate position on the Easton EAC. Replacement will be addressed once new applicants come forward. Brandon made a comment in support of the student associate position. With final comment made, Robert M. made a motion to approve student membership position description to send to Lafayette, Ian made a second motion, with all members in favor.

Membership Update:

Nick stated he would possibly go to a planning commission meeting to address required planning commission membership at EAC meetings. Tom and Stacy stated they would address the need for membership at future events and meetings. Ian spoke of designated areas to promote membership and volunteer opportunities, with Nick supporting the idea.

Old Business

2024 Annual Report:

Nick to coordinate with the city council regarding the 2024 annual report.

Wilson Warehouse Letter:

Discussion was made further on the subject. Ian spoke about the DEP waterway, the environmental permit, and trail remediation as part of ongoing plans. Nick opposed the project and endorsed environmental remediation. Ian made a motion to draft a letter incorporating Robert M's original ideas in the draft letter and send a new letter to the planning commission. Robert M. made second with all in favor.

Zoning Changes:

Zoning discussion was tabled for a future meeting and all permits spoken of before to be addressed.

New Business

Blue Zones:

Todd stated he would provide tokens to support cleanups at the Easton Farmers Market and promote Blue Zone activities at both the farmers market and West Ward Market with collaboration with EAC. Robert M. made motion with Stacy seconding. All were in favor.

Salt Usage and Collaboration with other EACs:

Nick motioned to table all other items except for Wilson Warehouse discussion until another meeting. Ian made second motion with all in favor.

Meeting was adjourned; motioned by Ian, seconded by Robert M. - passed 5-0-0.