

Easton Environmental Advisory Council (EAC)

Meeting Minutes

Date: July 1, 2025

Time: 6:07 PM

Location: City Hall & Online (Hybrid Meeting)

Recording Started: 6:07 PM

Attendance

Members: Nick Gorski, Stacy Melvin, Robert MacDonald, Ian Kindle (virtual)

Associate Members: Tom Pritchett, Brandon Sullivan.

Public: Kate Semmens (virtual), Molly Bilinski (virtual)

1. Call to Order & Agenda Approval

- Meeting called to order at 6:07 PM.
- **Motion:** Rob MacDonald motioned to approve the agenda. Ian Kindle seconded.
- **Vote:** Approved (4-0)

2. Approval of June Meeting Minutes

- Rob MacDonald made edits to the previous minutes.
- Clarification discussed on **Sustainable PA certification** and its impact on grant opportunities. Easton's rating remains **Platinum**.
- Brandon submitted the renewal application on time to avoid lapse.

Motion: Rob MacDonald motioned to approve the amended minutes. Stacy seconded.

Vote: Approved (4-0). Ian Kindle confirmed his approval.

3. Reports & Updates

a. Climate Action Plan (CAP) & Nature Nurture Center

- **Kate Semmens:** CAP Task Force meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, July 15 (5:30–7:00 PM)** via Zoom. The agenda is to be sent next week.
- **Nick:** Unable to attend live but will view the recording.
- **Ian:** Suggested the EAC prioritize key CAP actions, especially in **climate adaptation**, for presentation to the city.

b. CDP Coordination & Movie Night

- **Brandon Sullivan and Kate Semmens:** CDP feedback call scheduled for **Tuesday, July 9 at 12:00 PM.**
- Focus on increasing Easton's CDP score; partial feedback review planned.
- **Movie Night:** Event focused on **microplastics** scheduled for next Thursday. Thanks to **Molly Bilinski** for coordinating the interviews.

c. Greenspace Mapping

- **Ian Kindle:** Minimal updates; noted technical issues with the photo-upload app. Paul succeeded, Mary and Stacy had issues.
- Completion of **West Ward** mapping is expected soon. New location to be chosen for fall.
- **Nick:** Suggested scheduling a group field session in July. Ian will coordinate depending on the weather.

d. Transportation

- **Nick:** No new updates.

e. Waste & Recycling

- **Mary Arlia:** Absent.
- **Recap from June meeting: Brandon:** Planning a "**Tour and Learn**" compost initiative:
 - Locations: **West Ward, Public Market**, then **Farmers Market**.
 - Drop-off only: No curbside collection.
 - Accepted materials: **Vegetable and fruit scraps only**; citrus excluded.
 - Brandon to confirm details and coordinate with **Jared, Emily, and Mark**.
 - Participants responsible for transporting compost using buckets.

f. Communications

- **Robert:** No updates currently.
- Planning Commission warehouse meeting delayed. Emphasis on attending key City meetings to stay engaged.
- Alternating EAC members to attend Planning Commission, Zoning Hearing, and City Council meeting—highlighted the need for greater EAC presence.

g. Urban Forestry

- **Rob Christopher:** Absent, no report.

h. Sustainability Initiatives

- **Brandon Sullivan: Bird Town:** Easton has achieved “Green” status (88th). His goal is to reach the next status by the next reporting cycle.
- **Soul Smart Solar Program:** Easton enrolled and on track for **bronze** status.
- The ambassador’s photo of the bird, along with the date, time, and location of the bird strike, is being used in an activity that incorporates a QR code for reporting and education.
- **Dark Skies:** planned for **August/September**.
- **Salt Management:** Fall updates expected from Brandon in collaboration with Dave from **Little Lehigh Watershed**.

4. Membership Updates

- Outreach underway with **Lafayette College** to recruit associate members.
- **Motion:** Nick motioned, and Rob second sending a letter to **Delicia** regarding associate membership.
- A membership vacancy will be publicly posted throughout the city.
- **MailChimp Use Approved:** Rob McDonald to work with Brandon to use MailChimp for EAC communications.
 - **Motion:** Rob motioned; Stacy seconded. Vote: 4-0 approval.
- Brandon Sullivan was officially voted in as an Associate Member. The motion was made by Rob McDonald and seconded by Stacy (4-0).

5. Public Comments

- **Tom Pritchett:** Exploring seminar programming ideas
- **Brandon: bike safety workshops.**
- **Nick:** Recommended framing future events as educational, not speaking engagements.

6. New Business

a. Coordination with Planning Commission & City Council

- Proposal for EAC to **submit formal letters** of support or objection to items discussed by the Planning Commission or Council.
- Suggestion for **designated representatives or alternates** to attend:
 - Planning Commission (1st Wednesday)
 - City Council (2nd & 4th Wednesdays)
 - Zoning Hearing Board (3rd Monday)
- **Rob MacDonald:** Recommended tracking key agenda items and selecting representatives in advance.
- **Nick Gorski:** Asked about logistics of changing the EAC meeting date for 2026. Requires a formal vote and public notice.

- **Nick Gorski:** reach out to Crystal Rose about coordinating with City Council
- **Stacy Melvin:** Consider adjusting the time of the West Ward Market cleanup to better align with the Planning Commission meeting schedule.

b. Visioning Workshops

- Rob proposed **quarterly joint workshops** with the Planning Commission to align goals and initiatives.
- All meetings would adhere to **PA Sunshine Law**—public and transparent.

c. Public Calendar & Engagement

- Plan to create a **shared calendar** of local public meetings and events.
- Review of **PA Sunshine Law** scheduled for **next EAC meeting**.

8. Adjournment

Motion: Rob motioned to adjourn; Stacy seconded.

Time: 7:36 PM

Vote: Motion approved (4-0)