

MEETING: 04/01/2025

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

Attendees

Members	Public
<p>Nick Gorski, Ian Kindle, Mary Arlia, Stacy Melvin</p> <p>Associate Members: Tom Pritchett, Paul Schalow, Analise Draghi</p> <p>Absent Members: Tony Klapatch, Robert MacDonald</p>	<p>Amy Kostelansky (virtual), Brandon Sullivan (virtual), Todd Nemura, Kate Semmens (virtual), Rob Christopher (virtual)</p>

EAC Organization: Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm

Introductions were made to Brandon Sullivan, Easton Sustainability Coordinator

Agenda

Motioned to approve the agenda - Ian first and Mary second, 4-0

March Meeting Minutes Approval

Motioned to approve the minutes Mary first, Ian second, 4-0

Public Comment

No public comment was made

Reports

Nurture Nature Center:

Kate Semmens shared upcoming events. - Thursday, April 3rd: is a seed workshop from 6-8. Youth Climate Summit April 25-26, 25th for students and the 26th open to the public. Tables will be set up from 12:00-2:00 both days at NNC. Ian and Stacy will run the tabling event with GIS information with visuals and an activity. Mary will have a display about EAC's clean-ups, informational posters on litter and sign-up sheets for volunteers.

No score yet for the Action Plan, still pending. Kate will share when the score is released.

Greenspace Committee:

Ian is developing a presentation and activity for the tabling event at the Youth Climate. He will have a visual of the GIS data and have an activity for students to select projects for the greenspaces. Rob suggested getting a visual of the city. Paul suggested a pinning activity.

Ian clarified for Brandon what the Greenspace survey is. The program is partnered with We Conserve PA and has been conducted over the past two years. The goal is to identify green space opportunities within the city. Example is the Social Security building, converting the gravel beds into planted beds. (Rob interjected that this area may not be a consideration if the plan proceeds to redevelop this area into apartments.) Ian shared a printout of city sections that still need to be inventoried. If interested and able, volunteers are asked to sign-up for a section and complete the inventory. No deadline. One issue encountered while collecting the data is cloud storage space. Ian will take the data and store the data elsewhere to open up cloud storage to keep collecting data.

Ian shared that the native plant ordinance made it into code. Property maintenance changes not adopted into zoning regulation.

Waste & Recycling Committee:

Mary contacted Mark Reed. He is hopefully to attend May's meeting. Analise reached out to Connor (Lafayette College) about the college's composting program. A tour is set up for April 10th, 3-4 meeting at 934 Bushkill Drive. Mary will invite Connor to attend the next EAC meeting and

Stacy will reach out to the Farmer Katie to attend as well.

EAC Cleanup first Saturday in April (5th) and April 26 at Arborfest at Lower Hackett Park. April 5th is the next clean-up meeting in front of the Indoor market 8:30-10. Beginning in May the first Saturday of the month clean-ups will meet at Scott Park. In addition starting in May the West Ward clean-up will resume. We will meet at West Ward at the informational tent. Time to be determined. Mary received supplies (safety vests and trash bags) from Keep PA Beautiful. Mary will make another request for supplies in November. Stacy has buckets for clean-ups. Stacy and Mary will work on incentives for both markets to generate more volunteers. Possibly reach out to Emily through GEPD.

Arborfest at Lower Hackett Park - Clean-up is at 3:30. Mary will lead. Kate will bring volunteers from the Climate Summit.

Discussed many activities going on the 26th:

- Spring into Easton
- Arborfest
- West Ward Clean-up 9 AM
- Invasive Weed Pull at Scott Park (unsure of who is heading this activity)
- Lafayette is hosting Earthfest on the 24th

Transportation Committee:

Upcoming is a Safe Streets meeting on April 21st. Stacy and Nick may try to attend. Nick will attend the WLVR Panel meeting virtual on April 3rd.

Communications Committee:

City Urban Forestry Update

Rob shared that the building is up at lower Hackett however the funding for finishing is needed. Specifically flooring, electrical hookup, split heat/AC. Nick inquired about the total needed. Rob does not know an exact total but can put together a total for the next meeting. Stated that flooring should be approximately \$2000,. Ian suggested tapping into the Lehigh Valley Greenways. Rob and Miranda already earmarked money from them to plant the 8th street

hillside. In addition at Hackett Park a London Plane tree had to come down. The stump will be memorialized into a seed library/community bulletin board and finished off with birdhouses.

Tree Tender Trainee program held with a strong turn out. The program is required with the 50 bare root tree grant. All will be planted in the five parks. Suggested ratio of 1 tree tender per 25 trees.

Finishing up the plans for Arborfest (1-5). Asked for help to plant trees at 1:45. Ian asked that Rob share to everyone the finalized schedule.

Friendly Tree Service has been mulching/pruning. They have Sullivan Park on their list to do later this year. There is new growth that needs to be attended to. Paul noted that the pond aerator has been reinstalled but not turned on.

Miranda/Rob created a How to Start a Microforest publication. This will be available shortly.

Stirner Arts Trail - Paul mentioned the chained off American Sycamore along the trail and the informational plaque stating the age of the tree being close to 300. Rob stated there is another sycamore tree down off the creek just as old. Keep in mind in a few years to celebrate the tree (300 years old). Witness Tree for America's 250 year Anniversary.

Membership: Brandon needs to be a resident of Easton to be a voting member but he could be an associate. Discussion about possibly revisiting and modifying the bylaws. Nick will reach out to the Planning Committee chair to identify a Planning Commission member to attend EAC meetings as a voting member.

Lafayette Student Membership: Ian asked Analise to talk up EAC with peers to get a replacement. Analise will be graduating in May and the EAC will need a new representative from the college.

Old Business

Warehouse letter: Discussed the current letter drafted by Robert M. Tom asked if this letter

would be sent to represent EAC or by individuals. The letter could be used by an individual but Nick will reach out to Robert M. to discuss the letter and draft another letter to reflect EAC's stand on making the trail a consistent width through the new development to match the existing path. Nick requested a possible virtual meeting in the next two weeks to review the new drafted letter prior to the city council meeting. Discussion revolved around time frames and if the meeting needed to be posted for the public. If the cost is below \$50 for a posting in the newspaper we may hold a special meeting. Brandon inquired about the warehouse proposal and status. Nick stated that 87% of the warehouse is in Wilson, 10% Palmer and 3% Easton. The planning commission meeting for the Wilson Warehouse has been pushed back monthly and has been bumped to May.

Tabled for next meeting: How to manage volunteers: Signup Genius, Google Forms, Mail Chimp, etc.

Meeting adjourned at 7:34 pm; motioned by Ian, seconded by Mary- passed 4-0-0