Pocono Township

Environmental Advisory Council (EAC)

19NOV26

Meeting 04

Notes:

Roll Call

Notes:

Chris Grape-Garvey

Ellen Gnandt

Jim Pellegrini

Josh Knapp

Kyle VanFleet

Randy Peechatka

Timothy Wah

Agenda

- Roll Call
- Public Comment
- Meeting Minutes
- Old Business Updates
- Meetings and Webinars
- Recounting of prior EAC Business
  - Due to the gap in time, a recounting of the previous initiatives is in order to catch up and align the council activity and objectives
- Council Member Reports
- New Business

Notes:

Public Commet

- **Any public comments?**

Notes:

Meeting Minutes

- **No minutes from previous minutes.**

Notes:

Old Business - Updated

- **Email for EAC and/or Council Members**
  - **Email is available for all council members (thank you Ellen!)**
  - **As of this time I know of only three people that have added their .gov email addresses**

  Reminder: Not using a public address subjects your personal email to public scrutiny
- **Zoom EAC Meetings**
  - **The subject of Zoom for EAC meetings will (should) be on the next BOC meeting agenda, November 06, 2026**

Notes:

Meetings and Webinars

- **Josh and I (Jim Pellegrini) attended a Paradise Township EAC meeting**
  - **The main focus as I assessed was land acquisition.**
- **Josh and I (Jim Pellegrini) attended the second Act. 167 meeting at the Monroe County Environmental Education Center**

  *"The Pennsylvania Stormwater Management Act of 1978, or Act 167, required that within two years following the promulgation of guidelines by DEP, each county must prepare and adopt a **watershed stormwater management plan** ("Act 167 Plan") for each watershed located in the county as designated by DEP, in consultation with the municipalities located within each watershed, and must **periodically review** and **revise** such plans **at least every five years.**"*
- **I (Jim Pellegrini) attended the Riparian Buffer webinar hosted by PennFuture 18NOV2026 (yesterday)**
  - **Very informative**
  - **I will share the recording location once received, lots of great information!**
- **Activities from other council members?**

Notes:

Recounting Prior Business

Notes:

Commissioner Matthew Long's EAC Outline

- **Protect the Poconos (All board members)**
  - **Do we need to incorporate Commissioner Long's outline into Ordinance NO. 2026-02?**
- **Do we want to pursue a change to the EAC township ordinance?**

Notes:

Protect the Pocono Waters

- **Protect Pocono Waters**
  - **Coordinate with the Brodhead Watershed Association, Monroe County Conservation District, and other partners on watershed education, stormwater education, riparian buffer awareness, stream health, and resident reporting resources**
- **Timothy Wah and Josh Knapp**
  - **Educational Events / Quarterly Workshops / Social Media Postings**
    - **Discussions to Benefit all Citizens –**
      - **Septic Tanks**
      - **Rain Barrel Workshops**
      - **About Fertilizers**
      - **All about bugs – Lantern Flys and Ash beetles**
      - **Storm Water Drainage Systems**
  - **Any progress or thoughts?**

Notes:

Native Tree and Forest Stewardship Initiative

- **Native Tree and Forest Stewardship Initiative**
  - **Organize a native tree planting or giveaway, support riparian buffer plantings, and provide public education on the importance of native trees, forest health, shade, soil stabilization, wildlife habitat, and scenic character**
- **Josh Knapp –**
  - **Create a Rain garden**
  - **Discuss Native Plants**
- **Kyle VanFleet**
  - **Potential to work with the Game Commission for land purchase and preservation**
- **Any progress or thoughts?**

Notes:

Open Space and Scenic Character Outreach

- **Open Space and Scenic Character Outreach**
  - **Communicate with Pocono Heritage Land Trust and other conservation partners to identify ways the EAC can support open space education, conservation awareness, scenic resource protection, and long-term stewardship opportunities**
- **Chris Grape-Garvey, Ellen Gnandt and Kyle VanFleet**
- **Any progress or thoughts?**

Notes:

Hazmat Safety Initiative – Updated

- **Kyle VanFleet –**
  - **Suring up the HASMAT Response Readiness for Pocono Township (PTWP)**
- **Update:**
  - **Kyle has invited Ben Harrison to attend an EAC meeting**

Notes:

Outreach to the DCNR & MCCD

- Outreach to the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR)
- Outreach to the Monroe County Conservation District (MCCD)
- Timothy Wah to give an update on progress

Notes:

Community Cleanup Campaign

- **Community Cleanup Campaign**
  - **Host a township cleanup day or partner with existing cleanup efforts to engage residents, businesses, HOAs, schools, and civic organizations in removing litter, addressing dumping hotspots, and improving the appearance of public spaces, roadsides, parks, and trailheads**
- **Any interest in doing this?**

Notes:

Council Member Reports

In alphabetical order

Ellen Gnandt

Chris Grape-Garvey

Josh Knapp

Randy Peechatka

Jim Pellegrini

Kyle VanFleet

Timothy Wah

Notes:

New Business

- **Any other comments / thoughts from board members?**
  - **Josh, Ellen, Chris, Timothy, Randy, Jim, Kyle**
- **Any additional comments from the public?**

- **Have we missed anything we should discuss tonight?**

Notes:

Motion to Adjourn
Thank you!

Notes: