

Pocono Township Environmental Advisory Council

Location: Township Administration Building meeting room

Date: July 30, 2026

Time: 6:00 pm

Agenda

- Approve Minutes from previous meeting
- Old Business
- Council Member Introductions to the Public
- Social Media & Website Activities
- Update from Thomas on his Outreach
- Review of Commissioner Long's Email
- Broken up on multiple slides with actions
- Discuss the Plan to Progress the Hazmat Initiative

Approve Minutes

- Review and approve minutes from previous meeting.
- All in favor?
- Post minutes online?
- Who can run point?

Note: Chris will be taking minutes from this meeting on

- Thanks Chris

Old Business

- Email for EAC and/or Council Members

- Are we progressing township email addresses for council members?
- I would like to see this become a reality to facilitate cases where the public wants to contact the EAC or vice versa
- This can be a group email or individual mailboxes
- Group mailbox will be hard to manage unless the outbound email address is the group email for replies to all
- Members must remember to copy all on sent messages for visibility and prevention of duplication of effort (more than one of us answers a request or question)
- Email address(es) should be linked on the township's website EAC page individually or list the group address if that's the chosen path
- Email – Yes or no?
- Individual or group?
- If “Yes” I (Jim Pellegrini) can run point on this with the BOC and tech services for the township
- Do we want to start “Zooming” the meetings?
- If yes, I (Jim Pellegrini) will run point on this with the BOC and tech services for the township

Council Member Introductions to the Public

- Chris (Christina) Grape-Garvey
 - Longtime resident of the area.
 - Former board member and employee of the Pocono Heritage Land Trust.
 - PMSD school board director.
 - Very concerned about our local wildlife/environment.
 - Volunteered to take minutes of the ongoing EAC meetings. (Thank you!)

- Ellen Gndt
 - Active on the Board of Commissioners.
 - Very engaged in the happenings of the township.
 - Took the initial meeting minutes for the kickoff meeting (thank you!)
 - Do you have any of the minutes penned?
- Josh Knapp
 - Career Paramedic.
 - Member of the Pocono Regional Citizens group on Facebook.
 - Frequent commentator at BOC meetings.
- Kyle VanFleet
 - Lifelong resident of the township.
 - Passionate outdoorsman, hunting and fishing.
 - Knows a lot about the area and its wildlife.
- Randy Peechatka
 - Generational resident of the area.
 - Passionate about proper growth and development.
 - Historical knowledge of the township.
- Timothy Wah
 - Passionate outdoorsman, hunting and fishing.
 - Hazmat Material Mediation professional.
- Jim Pellegrini (EAC Chairman)
 - 10-year resident of the township.
 - Very outspoken at meetings.
 - Cares deeply for the area and the direction of development.

Social Media & Website Activities

- Post the introductions and meeting minutes on the township website and social media (FB)?
 - I (Jim Pellegrini) think we should get this out there for the sake of “transparency” and letting the people know a bit about who sits on the council and what we are doing
- Township website & Facebook
 - Anywhere else?
- Thoughts?
- Who can run point?

Update from Thomas on his Outreach

- Thomas proactively reached out to the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) and the Monroe County conservation district (Thanks!) • How did you reach out?
 - Email, phone?
- Did anyone reply?

Review of Commissioner Long’s Email

- The theme – Protect the Poconos
- In summary Commissioner long laid out a detailed way forward with “First year objectives”
- Protect Pocono Waters
 - Native Tree and Forest Stewardship Initiative
 - Open Space and Scenic Character Outreach
 - Community Cleanup Campaign

- Let's review his suggestions (next slides)

Note: These may not be short-term initiatives!

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
- Who can run point and report progress?
 - (Thomas?)

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
- Who can run point and report progress?

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

- Who can run point and report progress?
 - (Chris?)

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
- The devil is in the details
 - Organizing the event days/time
 - Selecting the road(s) or areas to sweep lean
 - Getting the supplies
 - Garbage bags
 - Safety vests
 - Getting the township to pick up the collected debris in a timely manner ²
- Who can run point and report progress?

Discuss the Plan to Progress the Hazmat Initiative

- Picking up from where we left off:
 - Kyle has begun outlining what may be required to properly protect our township from a Hazmat situation, mostly on I-80
 - He sent his thoughts in an email
 - We both realize that this may be bigger than our committee and outside the scope
- Board of Commissioners Dan McCreary gave me a suggestion on someone to bring into the conversation when we are ready

- Dan – “I know the township recently named a new Emergency Mgmt. Coordinator, Brad Harrison, who was confirmed by Gov Shapiro.”
- We can follow up on that at the right time
- Does anyone have any other input?
- I (Jim Pellegrini) will run point on this with the help of Kyle, Thomas and anyone else that wants to be involved

Anything Else?

- Have we missed anything we should discuss tonight?