ROBESON TOWNSHIP

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Minutes
February 5, 2026

Present: Kate Kennedy, Anne-Marie McMahon, Robert Horst, David Weld

Guests: 20 residents attended the meeting; see sign-in sheet

1. Call to Order

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Roll Call

4. Reorganization

- Temporary chair: Kate Kennedy. Anne-Marie McMahon moved to appoint, Robert Horst seconded, none opposed, motion carried.
- Chair: Kate Kennedy. Robert Horst moved to appoint, seconded by Anne-Marie McMahon, none opposed, motion carried.
- Vice Chair: David Weld. Kate Kennedy moved to appoint, seconded by Rob Horst, none opposed, motion carried.
- Secretary: Anne-Marie McMahon, Kate Kennedy moved to appoint, Rob Horst seconded, none opposed, motion carried.
- Assistant Secretary: vacant
- Alternate: vacant
- Planning Commission member: not yet appointed
- Board Liaison: not yet appointed

A citizen present, Sally Stalnaker, noted that she had expressed her interest in joining the EAC in December 2025, and had not heard back from the township on her inquiry; meanwhile, others were nominated for open positions. We noted turnover in the township administration and encouraged her to submit her letter of interest directly to the township manager and BOS again.

Newly appointed members to the EAC, David Weld and Rob Horst, introduced themselves.

4. Approval of Minutes - 12/4/25. Kate Kennery moved to approve, David Weld seconded, all were in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

5. Citizens Comments

20 residents attended the EAC meeting, and many spoke during the comments period about their concern about a data center in the township. These included:

- Questions about why the EAC drafted an ordinance about data centers. Response: we want to get ahead of a formal proposal (which has not yet been made) in order to have stronger environmental and health protections in the township's ordinances, along with guidance about where a data center could be located and what input and approvals it would need to get from the community and BOS in order to proceed. An ordinance would be applicable whenever and wherever a data center might be proposed in the future, not only for the current property under discussion (the Grande property on Cedar Hill Road).
- The process of approving the draft data center ordinance has been unclear, in terms of who needs to review and approve it. Response: the township engineer reviewed it and provided comments, this was then to be passed along to the township solicitor, who agreed to review it and provide comments for the Feb. 12 BOS workshop. We reminded residents that the draft ordinance is posted to the Robeson Township website and we welcome feedback.
    - A resident noted the ordinance should specify clear and reasonable expectations of what the township and residents would be willing to put up with in terms of impacts and put real teeth into it to specify financial consequences for violations.
- Zoning of the property in question and its appropriateness for a data center, which has significantly higher water and energy usage than single family homes. One resident noted that the load on the Schuylkill might have bearing on the matter. Response: Regarding the property under discussion, other uses or buyers might be identified that could keep the land more rural, like a farm or public space. Interested residents should take up this inquiry.
- There is much talk about data centers in SE PA, and a push from the governor. However, it was noted that many communities have forced the removal of data center proposals for their municipalities. Response: watch PA House Bills that seek to address the data center issue, and contact your local legislators to express concerns and ask them to take a personal interest: Mark Gillen, Scott Martin; Katie Muth noted as an especially effective advocate. A resident of Birdsboro commented that she is trying to get party status for Birdsboro, which is a community that would be affected by a data center in Robeson. The website padatacenterproposals.com was also mentioned for tracking. The Berks County Comprehensive Plan is also being revised, and data centers might be a part of this.
- It is difficult to find information about the data center; urgent need for a newsletter. Response: turnover in the township has meant that a township newsletter hasn't gotten off the ground. Residents were encouraged to show up to Planning Commission and BOS meetings and see the EAC Facebook page. Resident Molly Goslin also created a Facebook group, Cedar Hill Road Data Center Opposition, to share information. Another resident encouraged people to meet their neighbors and talk about this issue in person.

6. Discussion Items
    - Draft data center ordinance and letter sent to the Board of Supervisors: dealt with during citizens comments period
    - Discussion of ideas, plans, and projects for 2026. Tabled to the March meeting. EAC members encouraged to come with several ideas.

7. Agenda for next meeting: to be finalized by email
8. Old Business - n/a
9. Adjourned at 8:32 pm. David Weld moved, Kate Kennedy seconded, all in favor, motion carried.