

ROBESON TOWNSHIP

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Minutes

March 5, 2026

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

Guests: Chris Smith, Geoff Bolt, Molly and David Goslin

1. Call to Order

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Roll Call

4. Approval of Minutes - 2/5/26. David Weld moved to approve, Kate Kennedy seconded, all were in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

5. Citizens Comments

Geoff Bolt from the Parks and Recreation board brought up several places where Parks and Rec could collaborate with the EAC, including advice about what types of trees to plant at the baseball field at Gibraltar Park, planning for a future nature walk at the park, and a possible celebration day for the township this summer. He also noted park clean-up and mulch days coming up in March and May.

6. Discussion Items

- Draft data center ordinance and letter sent to Board of Supervisors
 - The EAC revised the initial draft data center ordinance based on feedback from the township engineer and solicitor. That revised draft was reviewed by the Planning Commission at their 3/3/26 meeting.
 - There is still no formal data center proposal in the township.
- Follow up on any feedback from Planning Commission on revised data center ordinance
 - The Planning Commission asked the township engineer to make some additional changes based on other ordinances, and to ensure this new ordinance references Robeson's own codes. They suggested special exception vs conditional use approval, and noted the need to specifically address site lighting, landscape buffers, building height, and height of any underground construction. The re-draft will go back to the PC for review and then on to the Board of Supervisors.
 - Tom Keim advocated for the addition of a requirement for water meter readings in the event that water is withdrawn from groundwater supplies.
- New ideas for the EAC for 2026

- Tom Keim volunteered to put together more bird house kits that residents could put together. Hummingbird houses were also suggested.
- Single use plastic ordinance for the City of Reading may be enacted this fall. The EAC can use this development to get the word out about single use plastics to our township residents.
- The EAC should continue to look for ways to reduce lawn and replace it with pollinator habitat on township grounds. There may be opportunities to work with Parks and Rec in this regard.
- Invasive plant control on township grounds. Start with a walk to identify areas of concern.
- Review EAC Annual Report for 2025
 - David Weld moved to send the EAC's Annual Report for 2025 to the Board of Supervisors, Kate Kennedy seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.
- Composting workshop
 - Following up from the presentation last year by Jane Meeks of the Berks County Solid Waste Authority, the EAC wants to help educate township residents about how to compost food and yard waste so as to prevent this material from going to county landfills. Per Jane, this material takes up the largest volume and contributes to our warming planet by generating methane gas.
 - Penn State Master Gardeners can run a workshop for us for a \$50 fee. We proposed Saturday, May 30th, 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm at the pavilion at Gibraltar Park.
 - **David Weld moved to approve the expenditure of \$50 from the EAC's budget to the Penn State Master Gardeners to run a composting workshop for township residents, Kate Kennedy seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.**
- Evaluate native plant garden around township sign
 - We will start doing maintenance again around the sign. Will hold off on expansion plans until we can evaluate what we need to replace and if/how we might expand.
- Identify other partners who might be giving away free native plants
 - [Arbor Day giveaway](#)
 - [PA Invasive Replacive Program - May 16, 2026](#)
- Request to participate in NatureFest (Union Township event) on August 22
 - We will help plan and promote this again this year. EAC members are invited to attend the Union Township EAC meeting on April 8th at 6 pm to kick off the planning.

7. Agenda for next meeting

8. Old business

9. Adjourn

8:39 pm. Kate Kennedy moved to adjourn, David Weld seconded, all in favor, motion carried.