

ROBESON TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Minutes
July 2, 2026

Present: Kate Kennedy, Anne-Marie McMahon, Rob Horst

Guests: Tom Keim, Molly Goslin

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

2. Roll Call

3. Approval of Minutes - 6/4/26. Kate Kennedy moved to approve, Rob Horst seconded, all were in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

4. Discussion Items

- Data Center Ordinance
 - Status: the draft appears to have been handed back from the Board of Supervisor to the township engineer and Planning Commission to revisit for site review, review of noise standards, and for any other input.
 - We reviewed the draft ordinance and suggested several changes that seemed warranted from recent feedback. We specifically reviewed a survey of data center ordinances around noise to determine an appropriate recommendation. We added references to the Southern Berks Comprehensive Plan, changed noise and vibration standards, added guidance about changes that would trigger another review of the conditional use, clarified a data center would have to use public water only, and added a section about monitoring and reporting electric and water use, etc.
 - The 7/2/26 revision will be shared with the township engineer for review, and then with the Planning Commission.
- Composting workshop
 - Sat., Sept. 26 from 1-3 pm is confirmed with the Berks Master Gardeners.
 - Molly Goslin created a flier for advertising purposes and will modify with some further description.
 - Kate Kennedy will coordinate the event with Geoff Bolt of Parks and Rec, reserve Gibraltar Park, and request use of A/V equipment.
- Native Garden at township sign
 - EAC members continue to meet at 6:30 pm prior to each meeting to maintain the garden. Community members are welcome to join.
- Union Township Nature Fest - August 22
 - No discussion needed

5. Old Business

- We sent a survey to about 40 Robeson Township residents who received free native trees or shrubs over two years of the giveaway in 2024 and 2025, through our partnership with PA/IPL 10 Million Trees.
 - Of the 11 respondents, they reported that most or all of their trees or shrubs were still alive.
 - All of them had removed invasive species from their properties, as we had requested in order to receive the free plants. 8 of these respondents had removed 6 or more invasive shrubs or trees; 3 had removed 11 or more.
 - All respondents indicated they would plant more native trees if afforded another opportunity.
- We determined that we will not qualify for more free native trees and shrubs from PA/IPL as they are prioritizing urban areas with very little tree cover, and Robeson is not a candidate township. We have not found similar giveaway opportunities to date.

Adjourned at 8:23 pm. Kate Kennedy moved to adjourn, Anne-Marie McMahon seconded, all in favor, motion carried.