



**Montgomery Township
Environmental Advisory Committee
January 23, 2024
7:00 PM**

Montgomery Township's Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) met on January 23, 2024 at the Township Administration Building.

The members of the EAC in attendance included: Don Hamp, Linda Block-Love, Maureen Mirabella, and Ryan Rex.

Reorganization & Regular Meeting

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

Reorganization

- **Appointment of 2024 EAC Chair:** Maureen Mirabella was unanimously voted to serve as the 2024 EAC Chair.
- **Appointment of 2024 EAC Vice-Chair:** Linda Block-Love was unanimously voted to serve as the 2024 EAC Vice-Chair.

Approval of Minutes – November 28, 2023

- The minutes from the November 28, 2023 EAC meeting were approved unanimously.

New Business

- **WeConservePA Virtual Conference – 2/24/24:** Maureen Mirabella, Don Hamp, and Linda Block-Love will attend.
- **E-Recycling – 4/20/24:** The EAC discussed the importance of transparently and prominently displaying any charges for items such as monitors.

Old Business

- **Leaf Blower Bans:** Don Hamp will find out when the next local group meeting on this topic is and attend to gather information.
- **Single-Use Product Reduction Ordinance:** The EAC requested staff to review the webpage about the Ordinance. It will be reviewed further at the next meeting to enhance education about the Ordinance. They also discussed placing signs in parking lots to inform consumers of the change, and outlined the Ordinance's readiness as a priority for next month's agenda.
- **Lawn Conversion/Native Yards:** The EAC expressed continued interest in exploring ways to incorporate native plant species into public and private lawns as a means to promote biodiversity, reduce maintenance costs, and enhance ecological benefits.

- **Municipal Land Management:** The committee engaged in a robust discussion about the integration of native lawn practices into the management of municipal lands. Derek was tasked with researching and presenting information on municipal land that could be available for such initiatives. This action reflects the committee's desire to lead by example, showcasing how public lands can be managed sustainably.
- **Township Reception to Native Yards Initiatives:** Concerns were raised regarding the township's receptiveness to native yards initiatives. Ryan mentioned that some text of the annual letter was removed, which may indicate hesitance towards fully endorsing these practices. Beth was assigned to discuss this matter with Carolyn, aiming to understand the township's position and to potentially advocate for a more supportive stance towards native lawn initiatives.
- **Components of the Native Yards Initiative:** The discussion on native yards identified several potential components that could be part of a comprehensive "umbrella" initiative. This includes the care of municipal properties with a preference for native landscaping, the establishment of paths and kiosks to educate the public about native species, and the encouragement of wildflower gardens and no-mow areas among homeowners.
- **Development of the Umbrella Initiative:** Maureen and Linda were tasked with further developing the umbrella initiative. Their deliverables include a list of all components under the umbrella, prioritization of these components based on feasibility and impact, and an examination of connections and dependencies between initiatives.
- **Stargazing Event:** Ryan Rex proposed a stargazing event. The committee was in favor of exploring it during a later meeting.

Other Business

Public Comment on items not on the agenda

- There was no public comment.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

There is no meeting in December. The next meeting is scheduled for February 27th, 2024 at 7:00 pm at the Township Administration Building. A virtual option will be available.