



Meeting Minutes
Middletown Township Environmental Advisory Council
February 28, 2024

The meeting started at 5:31 PM

Roll Call & Introduction of Visitors

Members in attendance are indicated below in **Bold**.

Visitors:

Joe Leming

Review and Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Minutes approved 5-0

Public Comments

No comments.

Committee Reports:

Building and Subdivision Review

Peter Tantala

Peter presented the following plans:

1. ***814 W. Gillam Ave Subdivision Plans***

Two existing parcels, each with 1 existing residence are proposed to be subdivided into four parcels to accommodate the construction of two additional residences resulting in one residence per parcel. The EAC review indicated only mild impact to existing natural resources. Review notes included the following:

- Removal of 4 trees is proposed. The drip line area is <1/4 ac.
- No wetlands or floodplains are mapped for the area.
- No steep slopes are identified.
- SW infiltration bed is proposed. No emergency overflow provisions shown – to be noted in the comment letter.
- No PNDI search or Natural Resource Protection Quantification.

Peter will send an EAC comment letter on 29 February 2024.



Meeting Minutes

Middletown Township Environmental Advisory Council

February 28, 2024

Community Garden:

Paul Kopera for Gerry Bender:

Materials for garden clean-up and preparation are being arranged. Straw bales are being procured.

Garden clean-up is scheduled for April 20, 2024 - 9:30-11:30 AM

Tree Planting

John Lopuszanski:

Trees ordered are mainly for wet locations. Spring EAC tree planting will mainly be focused on the area at the intersection of Twin Oak Drive (S) and Trail Rd where a surface depression exists and which the county has identified for mosquito mitigation. Twelve (12) to fifteen (15) trees will be planted at this location during April.

Tree give-away will be included during Earth Day activities again this year. John indicated that feedback from last year included the desire by recipients for smaller trees/bushes. John also suggested that compostable pots be considered in lieu of plastic pots. Patrick will look into the cost and availability.

Beautification Committee:

Lauren Lareau:

Park cleanup on April 6, 2024.

9-11 AM

Forsythia Park (Kevin)

Juniper Hill (Patrick)

Snowball Gate (Lauren)

Climate Action Plan:

Kevin Deeny:

Minutes from the CAP subgroup summarize the review and discussion of tasks associated with recycling and food-grade repurposing during the recent subgroup meeting on 2/14/2024. Some information is available from waste haulers and sources, but specifics regarding apartment complexes and other commercial entities is lacking. Steps have been identified to begin the process of collecting additional information which will begin with a review of township records to determine if file information exists.

Philabundance presently receives food donations from area grocery chains – quantities are to be determined. Refer to the subgroup minutes for more detail.



Meeting Minutes
Middletown Township Environmental Advisory Council
February 28, 2024

Township Information

Paul advised to keep the 4/8/2024 BOS meeting date/time open – to be announced.

A ribbon cutting, scheduled for March 19, 2024, at 4:30, will be held for the new Level 1 EV charging stations recently installed in the back of the township building.

Old Business:

Earth Day – April 27; 11AM – 2 PM. At least 32 vendors have committed so far and more are expected in the next week or so. The tree give-away will take place during the event. See comments above. EAC members should review materials required for the event a week or two prior to ensure that they are transported to the site for the EAC table. Patrick confirmed that the Insulation Demo by Tom McCool will be there along with the township’s EV.

Speaker Series:

The recent ESS on Single Use Plastics had 34 people in attendance and the topic was well received. Preliminary survey information indicates support for limitations/alternatives for single use plastics.

The next ESS will be on March 19 regarding Birdtown. John will work on a survey to be distributed to attendees related to the Birdtown program. Lauren will support that effort.

The Fall series are scheduled for 9/17 and 10/15. Confirmation has not yet been received from Neale Dougherty – Bucks County Sustainability Director. Patrick indicated that we would need a commitment by the May 2024 meeting to meet the printing deadline for the Fall Guide. Alternatives need to be considered – composting has been suggested as a possibility.

New Business:

No new business.

Upcoming Events:

EVENT	DATE	TIME	
Environmentally Speaking Series	March 19, 2024	6:30 PM	Bird Town
Level 1 Charging	March 19, 2024	4:30 PM	Ribbon Cutting



Meeting Minutes
Middletown Township Environmental Advisory Council
February 28, 2024

Community Park clean-up	April 6, 2024	9-11 AM	
BOS Meeting	April 8, 2024		TBA
Tree Planting	TBD	TBD	
Garden clean-up	April 20, 2024	9:30-11:30 AM	
Earth Day	April 27, 2024	11-2 PM	
Holiday Open House	December 12, 2024	5:30-8:30	

Motion for Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 PM

Next Meeting: Unless otherwise noted, all EAC meetings are held on the 4th Wednesday of every month, at the Middletown Township Building at 5:30.

Our next scheduled meeting will be on Wednesday March 27, 2024.

Middletown Township EAC Members

Chairperson: **Lauren Lareau**, Vice Chairperson **Andy McAloon**, Secretary: Donna Fiedler,
 Members: **Peter Tantala**, **John Lopuszanski**, Gerry Bender, **Kevin Deeny**, Township Liaisons: **Paul Kopera**, **Patrick Graham**.



Meeting Minutes
Middletown Township EAC – CAP subgroup
February 14, 2024

The meetings of the CAP subgroup are held as informal working sessions focused on tasks associated with the Climate Action Plan (CAP).

The meeting started at 5:30 PM and ended at 6:30 PM.

Attendees

Those in attendance included: Lauren Lareau, John Lopuszanski, Donna Fiedler, Kevin Deeny, and Paul Kopera

Agenda Items

Two items were the focus of the meeting:

- Review of the Single Use Plastics Survey to be used for the scheduled ESS on February 20th on that topic.
- Review and discussion of recycling related tasks defined in the CAP.

Single Use Plastics Survey

A draft was reviewed, and edited for use by the Middletown Township EAC. The final edited version of the survey will be distributed to the public during the ESS on February 20th.

Recycling Related CAP Tasks

A summary of the status of multiple CAP tasks related to recycling served as the discussion agenda for this item. These notes were previously distributed to EAC members. Related tasks include the following:

- **Task WR-1B: Plastic Bag Alternatives**
- **Task WR-1F: Repurpose Consumable Food**
- **Task WR-2C: Expand Multifamily Recycling**

Task WR-1B (Plastic Bags) is being addressed separately, but the remaining two tasks involve interaction with the township’s recycling program. This program, structured by ordinance, is also grant-driven at the state level through PA DEP. Technical and administrative requirements of the program result in information collection of the types and quantities of recycle materials collected from residential and commercial sources within the township. Annual summaries are prepared by the township to support grant applications while a supplemental report is developed which summarizes both grant-eligible and other recycled material quantities. A review of available information from 2022 indicates:



Meeting Minutes
Middletown Township EAC – CAP subgroup
February 14, 2024

- The net¹ total recycled tonnage from residential sources = 3,213 tons.
- The net total recycle tonnage from commercial sources = 6,836.4 tons.
- State grant application forms don't specifically identify contributions from multifamily sources which is the focus of **Task WR-2C**. These quantities are included in the overall residential category without specificity.

State grant forms do not include a food category which is the focus of **Task WR-1F**, but the township's summary does. Three large retail corporations reported a combined recycled or repurposed tonnage of 313.4 tons as **Source Separated Food**.² Philabundance is reported to be engaged with their Grocers Against Hunger program in Middletown Township. This information can serve to help define a baseline for task **WR-1F**.

Discussion

Recycling information that has been reviewed to date meets DEP's information needs for their grant program, but doesn't provide a basis for assessing apartment complex level of participation. Additionally, other institutions (schools, hospitals, warehouses, etc.) are under-represented in the information summaries.

The following action items are proposed to begin the process of collecting information related to recycling:

- Meet with Middletown's Recycling Coordinator, request additional township file information related to recycling submittals. If no or limited additional information exists:
 - Assist the township, as needed, in preparing a draft form for use by commercial/institutional entities in the submittal of annual waste/recycling quantities.
 - Assist the township, as needed, in preparing a master list of commercial/institutional entities from which waste/recycling information will be requested.
 - Assist the township, as needed, in preparing a draft request letter for subsequent distribution by the township.

¹ A twenty percent (20%) factor is used to reduce the total hauled tonnage to account for residue and unrecyclable materials.

² Source Separated Food Scraps – Pre-consumer food wastes that are separated from municipal waste at the point of origin for the purpose of recycling and composting.



Meeting Minutes
Middletown Township EAC – CAP subgroup
February 14, 2024

- Assist the township, as needed, in preparing informational summaries related to waste recycling intended for public distribution.
- Identify PA DEP Guidance. (See - [DEP eLibrary \(pa.gov\)](#))
- Lauren will follow-up with Philabundance regarding the availability of information from their Grocers Against Hunger program in Middletown Township.

Next CAP subgroup Meeting

Topics related to the Plastics ESS Presentation and survey will be discussed. As time allows, briefing on meeting outcomes related to recycling may be included.