



Meeting Minutes

Middletown Township Environmental Advisory Council

September 27, 2023

The meeting started at 5:30 PM

Roll Call & Introduction of Visitors

Members in attendance are indicated below in **Bold**.
Student members in attendance were introduced.

Visitors:

Pat Ramirez: Pennswood Village

Review and Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Minutes approved 5-0

Public Comments

No comments.

Committee Reports:

Building and Subdivision Review

Please review the attached, DRAFT, EAC review letter for the proposed land development project at the Orchard Square Apartments, 1801 Old Lincoln Highway, Middletown Township.

In short, our review indicates only mild impact to existing natural resources, including:

- disturbance to woodlands, but with generous replanting of new trees, which appears to satisfy the code,
- protection of existing, localized wetlands, with observance of a 100' wetlands buffer margin, and



- It has come to our attention that the area being developed consistently floods and impacts to natural resources because of the proposed woodlands and steep slope removal should be expected.

Community Garden:

Paul Kopera (for Gerry Bender):

Water is now available in the garden.

The garden clean-up is scheduled for October 28, 2023, 9:30-11:30 am

Beautification Committee:

Lauren Lareau:

Fall clean up: September 16, 2023: 10 volunteers worked to pick up 365 lbs of trash along Oxford Valley Rd. to Woodbourne Rd. Nice work!

Tree Planting

John Lopuszanski:

John ordered from PHS for the planting in November.

Three trees each of the following: Ohio Buckeye (Aesculus Glabra) Northern Catalpa (Catalpa Speciosa) Sweetbay Magnolia (Magnolia Virginiana 'Moonglow') Chestnut oak (Quercus Prinus)

Climate Action Plan:

Kevin Deeney:

In keeping with the desire to have concise committee reports, attached are a few highlights associated with the CAP status meeting. A more extensive summary of the 8/23/23 meeting with Nick Valla is attached to the minutes for that meeting which can be referenced as needed.



Old Business :

Speaker Series:

October 17, 2023: Weatherization- Kevin Deeney and PECO

Spring 2024: Single Use Plastics

New Business:

CAP subgroup meeting planned for October 11, 2023 at 5:30 PM.

Motion for Adjournment :

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 PM

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

Our next scheduled meeting will be on October 25, 2023.

Middletown Township EAC Members

Chairperson: **Lauren Lareau**, Vice Chairperson **Andy McAloon**, Secretary: **Donna Fiedler**,
Members: Peter Tantala, **John Lopuszanski**, Gerry Bender, **Kevin Deeny**, Township
Liaison: **Paul Kopera**, Student Representatives: **Juliana Carragher**, **Ruhan Jaiharria**, **Katie Yimyan**, **Zachary Burnashov**.



Workshop Meeting Minutes
Middletown Township Environmental Advisory Council
August 23, 2023 at 5:30 PM

1. **Purpose:** Meet with the Assistant Township Manager (Nick Valla) to clarify the role of the EAC with respect to identified tasks in the township's Climate Action Plan (CAP) and to confirm the status of ongoing measures.

2. **Attendees:** EAC Members in attendance are listed below in **bold** text. Others include:

- Nick Valla – Assistant Township Manager
- Tyler Lapham - Middletown Township Intern

3. **Discussion Topics:**

Agenda discussion topics and more, were addressed by Nick Valla with the use of an extensive PowerPoint presentation which is included as an attachment. Please refer to the attachment for details. Topics included:

- Community response to the CAP or specific measures.
- CAP progress monitoring status. (Is EAC support anticipated?)
- Ready For 100 timing for adoption.
- Single Use Plastic Ban status.
- Expectations for EAC support in non-lead designated CAP tasks.
- ExactSolar study/initiative

Nick confirmed the expectation for the EAC to be proactively engaged with the implementation CAP tasks. He provided a current status of the tasks and included a listing of 10 tasks which the EAC could productively focus. See the attachment.

Nick additionally will provide feedback related to the potential for the township's solicitor involvement in draft ordinance development.

4. **Other Business**



- A Deer Drive Subdivision plan was reviewed without noting steep slope or tree removal concerns. The plan included on-lot stormwater mitigation measures which were considered positive attributes. Peter will prepare and submit the review findings including reference to the CAP and commendation of the positive stormwater source control measures.
- Paul is seeking a count of those members who plan to attend the regional EAC meeting at West Chester University in October. The township will pay the attendance fee. The current attendees include Lauren, John, and Kevin. Juliana may also be able to attend. Others who may be interested in attending should communicate directly with Paul.

Middletown Township EAC Members:

Chairperson: **Lauren Lareau**, Vice Chairperson: Andy McAloon, Secretary: Donna Fiedler

Members: **Peter Tantala**, Gerry Bender, **John Lopuszanski**, **Kevin Deeny**

Student Member: **Juliana Carragher** - NHS Senior/Environmental Action Club

Township Liaison: **Paul Kopera**, Patrick Graham

A meeting was held with Nick Valla on 8/23/23 to clarify the status and expectations for the EAC with respect to the Climate Action Plan (CAP). Below are initial questions with feedback (answers) provided by Nick. Also included is a summary of CAP action items that have been identified for EAC lead roles. Note that an extensive summary was prepared by Nick which can be referred to for more comprehensive information.

Question	Answer
Plan Monitoring	CAP used 2018 data; anticipating use of 2025 data in new GHG inventory; success of individual tasks is more challenging to gauge.
Community Feedback	Overall, positive. Primary criticism is financial in nature.
Ready for 100	Sierra Club is discontinuing this initiative.
Plastic Bag Ban	Needs to be driven by EAC with support from elected officials.
Ongoing Implementation	EAC should continue to lead CAP implementation.

CAP Action Items for the EAC as of 8/23/23

Ongoing Actions for the EAC to Lead

Residential Buildings (RB)

- 1 - 1A (Home weatherization)
- 2 - 1E (Improve insulation)
- 3 - 3B (Educational workshops)



New Actions for the EAC to Lead

Commercial Buildings (CB)

- 4 -4A (Recognition program)
Develop a business recognition program for businesses taking sustainable actions.

Waste/Recycling (WR)

- 5 - 1B (Single-use plastic bag alternatives)
Engage elected body; determine scope; how to enforce?
- 6 - 1F (Repurposing unsold, consumable food)
Recommend best approach and lead/facilitate effort
- 7 - 2C (Expand multi-family recycling)
Apartment complexes and townhome communities




Water/Wastewater (WW)

- 8 - 2C (Low/No cost residential retrofits)
Explore grants, educational outreach, and business partnerships

Transportation (TR)

- 9 - 2E (Alternatives to salt for snow/ice removal)
Research and identify best practices; pilot potential alternatives
- 10 - 3C (Encourage commercial areas to add EV charging stations)
Identify ideal shopping centers without EV chargers; build connections with businesses



 Previously assigned.