



Smithfield Township Environmental Advisory Council

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www.smithfieldtownship.com

August 22, 2024

Smithfield Township Board of Supervisors

Attn: Jacob Pride, Chairman

1155 Red Fox Road

East Stroudsburg, PA 18334

RE: Environmental Advisory Council's Recommendations on the Draft Lighting Ordinance Update

Dear Chairman Pride,

On August 20th, the Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) thoroughly reviewed the draft update to the township's lighting ordinance. This review followed a previous discussion held at the Planning Commission. The Council's assessment focused on both the environmental impact and the practicality of the proposed standards.

From an ecological perspective, the EAC commends the ordinance's efforts to mitigate light pollution. The incorporation of full cutoff and full shielding requirements is particularly noteworthy, as these measures are essential in preventing light spillover, glare, sky glow, and nuisance lighting that can detrimentally affect our ecological systems.

The Council also appreciates the ordinance's user-friendly design. The clear images and well-defined terms enhance its accessibility for various stakeholders, including code enforcement officers and property owners. Additionally, the reasonable standards set for kelvins (lighting temperature) align with best practices for minimizing environmental impact.

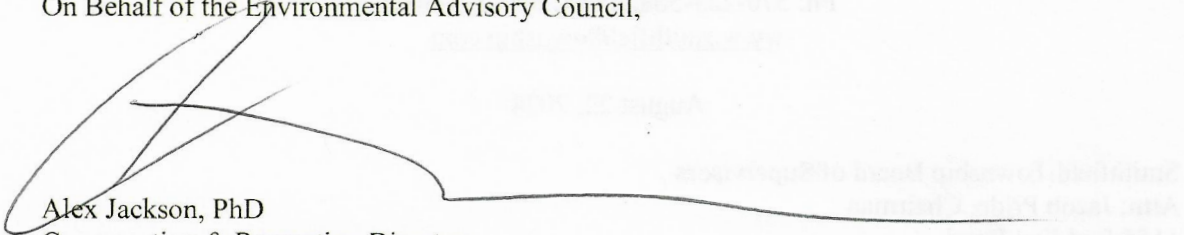
Regarding enforcement, the EAC acknowledges the potential need for a designated light enforcement officer to ensure compliance with the ordinance, particularly concerning nonconforming uses.

In Council's review, they observed that the standards in the draft ordinance represent a thoughtful blend of elements from previous discussions in the Joint Session and best practices from existing township lighting ordinances within Monroe County. The inclusion of visual guides inspired by the Dark Sky model further enhances the ordinance's effectiveness.

The EAC unanimously voted 5-0 to recommend that the Board of Supervisors adopt this updated chapter on outdoor lighting standards and incorporate the standards into the SALDO & Zoning Ordinance. The Council also encourage the Board to consider incorporating additional visual aids in future ordinance updates, as these contribute significantly to clarity and ease of use as an ordinance format.

Thank you for your attention to these important updates. The Council believe that adopting this ordinance update will be a positive step forward in protecting our township's ecological integrity.

On Behalf of the Environmental Advisory Council,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, starting with a large loop on the left and extending across the page to the right.

Alex Jackson, PhD
Conservation & Recreation Director
Smithfield Township, Monroe County