

SMITHFIELD TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING – FEBURARY 18, 2025

A Regular Meeting of the Smithfield Township Environment Advisory Council was held on February 18, 2025, at the Smithfield Township Municipal Center at 1155 Red Fox Rd, East Stroudsburg, PA 18301, and via Zoom.

Present were Vice Chair Brett Cartwright, Councilors Eric White, Mitch Bowyer, Ken LeSure, Commissioner James Munet, Supervisor Robert Lovenheim, and Conservation & Recreation Director Dr. Alex Jackson. Chair Pat Owens was absent.

Also present were Doug Schryver, Tara Vecchio-Freeman, Vicky Ozgun, and Jean Turn.

1. Vice Chair Brett Cartwright called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m.

2. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. Minutes:

a. December 18, 2024 Regular Meeting.

Brett Cartwright motioned to approve the minutes from December 18, 2024 with one minor correction on councilors present, and James Munet seconded. Vote: All in favor; motion carried.

4. Old Business:

a. Discuss: Open Space Inventory Presentation – Tabled.

b. Discuss: Recommendation for Dirty Fill Ordinance – Tabled.

Brett Cartwright motions to table Old Business a & b, seconded by Mitch Bowyer. Discussion: Mitch Bowyer asked for an update on these items. Dr. Alex Jackson clarified that the inventory presentation draft is ready for public discussion, and that the draft presentation had made significant progress. The next step is to achieve consensus on content, get public comment and feedback, and encourage public discussion. The goal is to eventually appoint a Council Member to deliver a 5-10 minute presentation to the Board of Supervisors. After further discussion, Council clarified that Pat Owens and Robert Lovenheim requested that these be tabled for this EAC meeting.

Mitch Bowyer suggested ensuring content consistency in the draft presentation, including whether any areas identified in the Township are eligible for grants, and a discussion ensued on this subject.

Council Members agreed to leave this agenda item for the March 18, 2025 meeting so that Pat Owens can be present. Vote: All in favor; motion carried.

c. Update: Tour Date for Sewage and Water Facilities Tour.

Dr. Alex Jackson explained that the Brodhead Creek Regional Authority had invited Township officials to attend on Saturday, April 5th. Alex highly recommended the educational tour, which will be a 1-2 hour experience. The Council discussed what is required, noting that it is an educational tour and attendees should use common sense at the facility. Doug Shryver requested to attend as a member of the Planning Commission member.

5. New Business:

a. Consider: Recommendation on Special Exception Use Criteria – Tabled.

6. Pending:

a. EAC List of ‘Environmental Problems’ and Priorities for the EAC – Tabled.

b. Environmental and Community Impact Criteria in SALDO/ZO – Tabled.

c. Data Center Criteria in ZO – Tabled.

d. 3 Point Garden Estates Major Subdivision – Tabled.

Brett Cartwright motioned to table New Business a, and Pending a, b, c, and d. Seconded by Ken LeSure. Discussion: Mitch Bowyer emphasized that the EAC’s list of environmental problems and priorities should not be tabled. He suggested that each member prioritize items individually, then consolidate as a group. Robert Lovenheim mentions that Pat Owens should be part of the discussion. Mitch argued that delays progress, while Robert points out that Pat Owens, as Chairperson, should be present. After further discussion, Ken LeSure suggested tabling the discussion. Vote: All in favor; motion carried.

7. Public Comments:

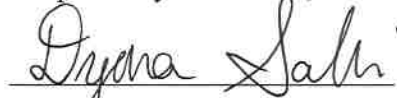
- a. Vicky Ozgun suggested holding EAC meetings twice a month. Brett Cartwright agreed this is a good idea. A discussion ensues among Council about doubling the number of meetings and Dr. Alex Jackson clarifies that work sessions were set by the EAC during re-organization, and that he will discuss this subject with the Township. Mitch Bowyer suggested sub-committee meetings in addition. Vicky Ozgun commented that the Vice Chair and Secretary can lead meetings in the Chair's absence, which lead to a discussion, where the Council consensus was that this has already been decided to table for tonight's EAC meeting.
- b. Mitch Bowyer supported holding work sessions to increase productivity, emphasizing that the EAC has already completed one-third of its term and should focus on making strong recommendations to the Supervisors.
- c. Brett Cartwright mentions that he would like to discuss how the Council has been run thus far but states that now is not the time. He notes that the next EAC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 18th, with meetings every two weeks. Dr. Alex Jackson will inform the Township to advertise accordingly. Further discussion ensued about meeting frequency and making up for lost time, with James Munet suggesting a positive outlook for the EAC.

8. Adjournment:

There being no other business before the Council, Brett Cartwright motioned to adjourn, seconded by James Munet. Vote: All in favor; meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Minutes Recorded by Dr. Alex Jackson

Respectfully submitted,



Dyana Salvi

Assistant Township Secretary