

SMITHFIELD TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
REORGANIZATION MEETING – FEBURARY 18, 2025, AT 7:00PM

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

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

1. Dr. Alex Jackson called the meeting to order at 7:00PM.

2. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. New Business:

a. Election of Officers.

i. Vice Chair

Dr. Alex Jackson entertained a nomination for Vice Chair. After some discussion amongst the Council members, Mitch Bowyer nominated Brett Cartwright for Vice Chair. Dr. Alex Jackson asked if there are any other nominations, and Brett Cartwright nominated James Munet. A discussion ensued on which Township entity decides the EAC chairperson. Dr. Alex Jackson clarified that the Board of Supervisors appoints the chairperson. Vote: 4-1-0 for Brett Cartwright as Vice Chair of the EAC.

ii. Recording Secretary

Ken LeSure joined the meeting at 7:05 p.m. Brett Cartwright entertained a nomination for Recording Secretary. Councilor Munet nominated Dr. Alex Jackson as Recording Secretary. Vote: 6-0 for Dr. Alex Jackson as recording secretary of the EAC.

b. Schedule Regular Meetings: 3rd Tuesday of each Month at 7:00PM.

Brett Cartwright motioned to have regular meetings 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m., James Munet seconded. Vote: All in favor, motion carried.

i. Schedule November 2025 and December 2025 Meetings:

Wednesday November 19th at 7:00PM.

Wednesday December 17th at 7:00PM.

Brett Cartwright motioned to move the November and December meetings to Wednesday November 19th at 7:00PM and Wednesday December 17th at 7:00PM. Seconded by James Munet. Vote: All in favor; motion carried.

c. Schedule Work Sessions:

Dr. Alex Jackson explained the concept of work sessions. Mitch Bowyer asked if the EAC agenda has to be advertised, and Dr. Alex Jackson clarified that the agenda needs to be posted 24 hours in advance. A discussion ensued on how the EAC could add a standing agenda item for EAC Member Comment. The Council agreed to have this as a standing agenda item, and also to add work sessions at 7 PM.

Brett Cartwright motioned for the EAC to schedule work sessions for the 1st Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m., as needed, Mitch Bowyer seconded. Vote: All in favor; motion carried.

4. Public Comment:

- a. James Munet commented on the EAC ordinance and expressed concerns. Mitch Bowyer commented that the powers of the Council are very specific.
- b. Robert Lovenheim commented on how he was thrilled to be here, he praised the list of environmental problems and expressed how this Council is vital to the Township. Robert also commented on renaming the committee to the Environmental Action Committee and that the EAC could help shape the future of the Township. Robert commented on preserving Smithfield Township, scenic corridors and keeping certain places rural, like River Road and how the EAC can push for these things. He mentioned other environmental organizations living in a past age, but that the Township EAC can be leaders and set an example for the whole county.
- c. Doug Schryver commented on infrastructure issues, specifically sewers and water, and the electrical grid, and also on sewers, sand mounds, and how they are prone to failure.
- d. James Munet commented on how certain developments in the Township have power lines buried in the ground, such as Sunrise Village to down in Shawnee Village, and discusses how the electrical grid is outdated. A discussion ensued.
- e. Doug Schryver commented on how the EAC could use its clout and the clout of the Supervisors. Council members responded that the EAC can't do anything other than make recommendations, and Doug Schryver suggests calling a meeting with the power

companies to see what they can do and see what the Supervisors want, which lead to a discussion on this subject.

- f. Jean Turn commented on burying power lines, and how that expense may get put onto the residents, which lead to a discussion.
- g. Doug Schryver commented on sand mounds and individual septic tanks in Smithfield Township, which lead to a discussion where James Munet suggested if they are functioning, they don't need to be replaced.
- h. Tara Vecchio-Freeman commented on central sewer and asked a question, which lead to a discussion on whether this utility would go to every resident or property in the township. Also discussed was whether there would be an additional fee being incurred, and whether people would be obligated to pay for central sewer if there's an existing functioning septic. Further discussion amongst Council Members ensued, after which Dr. Alex Jackson clarified that this topic of discussion falls under the category of Act 537 planning for the Township.
- i. Doug Schryver asked about who can explain the Act 537 Plan, and Brett Cartwright suggests Dr. Alex Jackson, which lead to further discussion. The consensus of the Council was that the EAC should add Act 537 planning to future agendas.

5. Adjournment:

There being no other business before the Council, Brett Cartwright motioned to adjourn, James Munet seconded. Vote: all in favor; meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Minutes Recorded by Dr. Alex Jackson

Respectfully submitted,



Dyana Salvi

Assistant Township Secretary