

SMITHFIELD TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING – APRIL 15, 2025

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A Regular Meeting of the Smithfield Township Environment Advisory Council was held on April 15, 2025, at the Smithfield Township Municipal Center at 1155 Red Fox Rd, East Stroudsburg, PA 18301, and via Zoom.

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

Also present were Vicky Ozgun and Charleen Spezza.

- 1. Chair Pat Owens called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.**
- 2. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.**
- 3. Minutes:**

- a. April 2, 2025 Meeting.**

Mitch Bowyer moved to approve the minutes, seconded by James Munet. Vote: all in favor, motion carried.

- 4. Reports:**

- a. EAC Chairperson's Report**

Pat Owens encouraged Council Members to watch the EAC film from PSATS, noting how it had discussed what actions could be taken. It had opened up all kinds of possibilities for action and operation. A discussion ensued on this subject, including a reminder of the importance of following Robert's Rules and an announcement about the upcoming open space presentation on April 22, 2025 at the Board of Supervisors meeting.

Mitch Bowyer asked about the annual report for the EAC, which led to a discussion in which Dr. Alex Jackson clarified that the EAC at Smithfield Township had begun approximately one year prior. Council Members discussed how such an annual report would focus on what had been important in 2024 and what the EAC had spent time on, emphasizing the need to keep it short and simple. Mitch Bowyer emphasized that the report should include the investigation of the open space issue and the brainstorming of priorities for the EAC. Council Members consented that this report

be limited to one page and also include a few key points on where the EAC was heading.

Robert Lovenheim commented on the Chapter 102 complaint that had been discussed at the April 2, 2025, EAC meeting, and Charleen Spezza also commented on this complaint, expressing additional concerns, which led to a lengthy discussion.

## **5. Old Business:**

### **a. Discuss: EAC's Updated List of 'Environmental Problems' and Priorities.**

The Council discussed plans and programs to recommend to the Board of Supervisors, per the powers of the Council, based on the refined list of priorities. The Council consented to selecting the top priorities but also noted the importance of finding a way to communicate with residents and the general public about what the EAC is doing and how residents can participate. The council discussed publishing materials on water quality concerns, ecosystem management, and recycling of plastic bags.

The Council decided they want to regularly report back to the Supervisors on their activities, potentially on a quarterly basis, which led to a lengthy discussion. The topic of Buttermilk Falls was brought up which lead to a lengthy conversation. Eventually, the Council agreed that Dr. Alex Jackson would draft a letter of recommendation to the Board of Supervisors regarding Buttermilk Falls, and that the EAC would discuss the letter at their next meeting.

After further discussion, the Council agreed to focus only on the top items from their priority list. Mitch Bowyer motioned to focus on the top five items and to develop recommendations to the Board of Supervisors on what actions should be taken. Seconded by Pat Owens. Vote: all in favor; motion carried.

### **b. Discuss: EAC outreach to share concerns & updates with residents.**

The Council Members discussed coming up with ideas on how they will reach out to the public as an EAC, such as a Facebook page or newsletter, and Council Members suggested that at the next meeting everyone put a list together so Council will have already done their thinking on this subject.

Eric White motioned to table, seconded by James Munet. Discussion: Buttermilk Falls was discussed by Council, and it was clarified that the item had been addressed. Also discussed by Council Members was the previously brought-up complaint on

stormwater issues, and after further discussion, it was decided by Council to move on with the agenda. Vote: All in favor; motion carried.

**6. New Business:**

**a. Discuss: Discuss: Fill, Grading, and water quality complaints.**

Council Members discussed earth disturbance activities, erosion and sediment control, and it was recalled that in December 2024, the topic of dirty fill came up where the EAC agreed to put a letter of recommendation together for the Supervisors. Robert Lovenheim discussed a meeting that Dr. Alex Jackson and himself attended at the Monroe County Conservation District recently, which led to a discussion on which type of ordinance to recommend.

Charleen Spezza commented that she could smell dirty fill near her property, and Vicky Ozgun commented on differentiating garden fill versus other fill, which lead to a discussion.

The Council discussed how the Township would need a certification and origin of the fill and other details such as Council's jurisdiction on this matter. The Council also discussed certified vendors who are known to deliver clean fill and the formation of a subcommittee to draft an ordinance.

Charleen Spezza commented on a discussion she had with the Conservation District, and how the responsibility falls on the Township on fill, but expressed concerns that there is nothing in the current ordinances that regulates this activity, which led to a discussion amongst Council Members.

James Munet made the motion that Dr. Alex Jackson send the letter of recommendation to the Supervisors and work with Robert Lovenheim to address the stormwater and dirty fill, seconded by Mitch Bowyer. Discussion: The Council discussed how the Township wants an actual letter of recommendation from the EAC first to see if the Supervisors consent. Pat Owens clarified the motion: that the draft letter be sent per the upcoming vote, and then sent to the Board of Supervisors.

Vicky Ozgun commented on a nearby wetland fill and how she was concerned how it took a long time to address.

Vote: All in favor; motion carried.

Pat Owens asked about stormwater on private property, and Dr. Alex Jackson discussed the Township stormwater ordinance. After further Council discussion, Mitch Bowyer made a motion to table this discussion until Dr. Alex Jackson can do more research, seconded by James Munet. Vote: All in favor; motion carried.

**7. Public Comment:**

- a. Vicky Ozgun commented on how she asked for an update on an a fill related issue, but wasn't satisfied with the response, which lead to a discussion, where Vicky indicated she did not fill out a Township complaint form because she believed it to be an emergency, which lead to a follow-up discussion.
- b. Charleen Spezza commented that she attended Township meetings, and how no one told her to fill out a form. She perceived this to be a problem and stated that she commented for over three months.

**Adjournment:**

There being no other business before the Council, James Munet motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mitch Bowyer. Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

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Minutes Recorded by Dr. Alex Jackson

Respectfully submitted,



Juna Heilakka  
Township Secretary