SMITHFIELD TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING – OCTOBER 5, 2026 AT 7:00PM

A Regular Meeting of the Smithfield Township Environment Advisory Council was held on October 5, 2026, at the Smithfield Township Municipal Center at 1155 Red Fox Rd, East Stroudsburg, PA 18301, and via Zoom.

Present were Chairman Eric White, Vice Chairman Mitch Bowyer, Dr. Michael Iovacchini, Kati Machovsky, Todd Dailey, and Conservation & Recreation Director Dr. Alex Jackson. Absent were Councilor Dr. Ken LeSure and Commissioner Chris Bowers.

Also present were Charleen Spezza and members of the public.

1. **Chairman Eric White called the meeting to order at 7:00PM.**
2. **The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.**
3. **Minutes:**
   a. **September 15, 2026 Regular Meeting.** Mitch Bowyer motioned to approve the minutes, Eric White seconded. Vote: all in favor; motion carried.
4. **Old Business:**
   a. **Reminder: Annual 2026 EAC Network Fall Gathering on October 24, 2026.**

      Council noted that Dr. Ken LeSure informed the Township that he can no longer attend. Eric White asked if we could ask for an alternate, which led to a discussion on that subject. Dr. Alex Jackson suggested recruiting members to Council. Mitch Bowyer asked about who had applied previously.

   b. **Single-Use Plastics Ordinances.**

      Eric White said this is a two-part process: education and then also an ordinance. Kati Machovsky said that to avoid failing, you need to do outreach and education. Eric White said that there are issues at retail with giving out an excessive number of bags. Council discussed how it takes 6 weeks for the new habit to form through education and that most businesses save or make money on the change. Eric White said the overabundance of reusable plastic bags can be very problematic as well; he suggested a cloth bag. Kati Machovsky said that every state around us has adopted laws to this effect. Council continued to discuss this subject at great length. They also discussed the businesses in Smithfield Township this may apply to.

      Kati Machovsky said Tredyffrin Township noted that corporate businesses already have the programs in place to adapt to a single-use plastics ordinance because adjacent states

have similar regulations already. Mitch Bowyer asked about the concept of an incentive for businesses, which led to a discussion on that subject. Council discussed how they need to put a list of businesses together and have a follow-up, then talk to the Board of Supervisors, then talk to the businesses afterward if the Supervisors are okay with it.

Mitch Bowyer asked if the EAC had received a response to the previous recommendations, which led to a discussion where Eric White suggested having an educational component as part of the presentation. Council discussed how they would like a response to the recommendations previously sent, which led to a lengthy discussion. Council discussed a quality-of-life survey, which single-use plastics could be part of, and Dr. Alex Jackson said that a survey is a good idea, which led to a lengthy discussion on these subjects. Dr. Michael Iovacchini said the conversation is good for showing where efforts are best applied and that all folks made great points. He asked whether we have established that this is the prime target we want, citing plastic straws and, now, plastic bags, among other subjects.

c. Discuss: Recommendations to Supervisors.

Council discussed that someone needs to reach out to the Supervisors on the recommendations previously sent. Dr. Alex Jackson recalled how Pat Owens and Brett Cartwright used to attend the Supervisor meetings. He said that, without a supervisor on the EAC, they may be missing a link. Eric White said it's good to have someone remind the Supervisors what's going on at EAC meetings. Eric White suggested written bullet points and to commit someone to reading it to the Supervisors. This should be part of the monthly agenda, with something ready to remind the board what is going on at the EAC meetings. Council agreed that this should be on the agenda prior to Supervisor meetings.

Dr. Alex Jackson reminded Council that, since they don't have an EAC Supervisor member, it has to be formal and polished because they can't assume the Supervisors are watching the EAC videos. He suggested being a unified voice representing the position of the group, which led to a lengthy discussion on these subjects.

Eric White said that this is a good time to bring it up and that we didn't need the formal report to the BOS before Council lost a Supervisor member. Todd Dailey said this is to remind the Board of Supervisors that they are meeting and are still there. Dr. Alex Jackson said you don't want the work, time, and energy to just be in the minutes and video and that you should put it before the Supervisors as much as you can.

Eric White motioned that, moving forward from this day on, there be an ongoing agenda item for a monthly report on EAC progress, Kati Machovsky seconded. Discussion: Dr. Michael Iovacchini said he was in favor of the idea of a standing agenda item. If they agree, they could also summarize during council member comment. There could be

several bullet points, presented on a rotating, volunteer basis. Anyone can do it, and it's a great standing agenda item. He liked Mitch's comment on incentivizing businesses on plastics. Vote: all in favor; motion carried.

5. **New Business: None.**

6. **Council Member Comment:**

   a. Eric White asked about the newsletter. Dr. Alex Jackson said he sent it all out to Supervisor Jacob Pride as discussed at the EAC meeting. Eric White said he met with Jacob Pride and that he's working on finalizing the tri-folds. Dr. Alex Jackson noted that the official map update documents were sent to the Township, noting the EACs recommendation, and their December deadline, but beyond giving the documents to the Board as a recommendation, he has no authority.

   Eric White expressed concerns that it could fall by the wayside. Kati Machovsky said she would like to poke the Board of Supervisors on this subject. Eric White said the best way to do this is an email, which led to a discussion on this subject. Dr. Alex Jackson recommended that the chair or vice chair send an email about the recommendation, note this conversation, and ask whether they think they'll meet the deadline. He recommended being diplomatic and professional about all the EAC communications, and this led to further discussion. Eric White noted that the December deadline was requested; it's not set in stone, but where does this stand?

   b. Mitch Bowyer reiterated that the two recommendations recently made and the official map follow up discussions need to go out to the Supervisors before the next EAC meeting. He said that the supervisors are supposed to be directing the EAC and don't want to delegate to them and that the EAC could do a lot of stuff for the Township. He also asked about what is happening to all the timeshare units on Buttermilk Falls Road, which led to a discussion in which it was noted that there's a public auction coming up very soon, within the next month or two. Eric White said that the local businesses took a big hit because of the loss of customers from the abandonment of that use. Council discussed including items before the Planning Commission.

   c. Todd Dailey said that where Marshalls Creek comes into Brodhead Creek, where the Manwalamink WWTP discharges, the two streams are clearly distinguishable. Council discussed how the Township got no response after the hearing. Todd Dailey also commented on the Shawnee cell phone tower and cell phone shed, which led to a lengthy discussion on the new proposed cell phone tower in the Township. Todd Dailey asked about having EAC members on the Planning Commission, which led to a discussion on that subject.

d. Kati Machovsky expressed surprise that nothing has happened communication-wise since the Manwalamink WWTP hearing and that no response was provided. Council said they felt ghosted. Dr. Alex Jackson suggested waiting until the next EAC meeting to follow up, as the PA DEP take time to respond to constituent inquiries. Kati said that she wants better communication between the Planning Commission, the Board of Supervisors, and the Environmental Advisory Council, which led to a discussion on that subject.

7. Public Comment:

a. Todd Dailey noted that he has an adult eagle on his property. It's been there for the past couple of weeks, hanging out around the farm. He was uncertain about the gender of the eagle. Todd Dailey asked about a fall cleanup; Council suggested that this may occur in November after Fall Fest.

b. Charleen Spezza said that it's always the same thing: the EAC works hard to do this, the Supervisors don't respond, and she hears excuses. She said the Supervisors need to respond and that it's the same thing year after year. They spend an hour and a half of their time and are constantly being told they have to table stuff. She said something has to change and that Supervisors could come once a month, which led to a lengthy discussion on these subjects. Eric White said they'd be doing a formal monthly report to the Supervisors and talking to all the Boards in the Township about how to promote the work they are doing.

8. Adjournment: Eric White motioned to adjourn, Kati Machovksy seconded. Vote: all in favor; meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Minutes Recorded by Dr. Alex Jackson

Respectfully submitted,

Julia Heilakka
Township Secretary