



EAC Meeting Minutes
6/5/2025

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Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:08pm

Committee Attendance

Those committee members in attendance were:

Barbara Mako, Carys Egan, Donna Delany, Kathy McDevitt, Rachel McKay, Sean Clark
Dana Alan, Supervisor Liaison

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

MOTION by Donna to approve the May minutes; second by Carys. The motion carries unanimously.

Manager’s Report – none

Subdivision/Variance Applications – nothing new

New Business

Healthy Yard

- 5 new residents received Healthy Yard recognition this month by email.
Deborah Harding attended this meeting and received our recognition in person.

Nature Tenders

- Opalanie mowing
Last month, we decided mowing half of Opalanie in Nov would be best management. Donna spoke with Assistant Bryn Coed Preserve Manager Caleb, and he suggested a good plan could be to mow have of the meadow areas in Opalanie in June and half in winter. Donna will communicate this with the township.
- Tree care - it is hot and buggy now, will wait for better weather
- Fall plant swap – didn’t discuss

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Botanical Sanctuary

- Fence condition was discussed. Committee feels that the fence needs to be more attractive and stable, especially the front.

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Healthy Yard

- Pesticide usage – Donna reported on information Rachel Griffith collected for us from PECO - PECO has a distribution herbicide program that selectively targets small non-compatible volunteer trees and vines on a 4 year maintenance cycle. It is performed about two years after the 4 year trimming cycle. Generally this work is done in unmaintained areas or on PECO owned property and ROW’s. Stumps are also treated after the removal of non-compatible volunteer trees (strategic removals) to help mitigate resprouting. Our Vegetation team is aware of some of the concerns that West Vincent Township has had with herbicides, and we avoided some of those sensitive locations the last time we did distribution herbicide work in 2023. The next

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distribution herbicide work for West Vincent Twp would be tentatively scheduled during 2027 for one of our larger circuits.

- Dana reports that on her road, the poles are sprayed yearly with herbicide.
- Donna will reach out to Rachel Griffith and ask her to follow through with her offer to contact PennDOT. She will also ask her if she has any advice as to how residents can dispose of large yard waste if we have a burn ban.

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- Pollinator Pitstop Program – Sean and his daughter weeded the pitstop recently. Today, Donna and Barbara weeded and mulched Vic's tree and the pitstop. We planted *Monarda fistulosa* where some of the *Monarda didyma* is missing.
- Birdtown – the baby bird walk was popular! Rachel will look into the feasibility of adding a kestrel or owl box near the community garden to assist with rodent control.
- Nature Book Club
 - Carys is reading the new Doug Tallamy book *How Can I Help?* to assess its feasibility to be our next book club book. The next book club meeting will be in the fall.
- Climate Action Plan – Kathy gave us an overview of West Vincent's Climate Action Plan and links to Chester County's and PA's.
- Salt Watch volunteers requested – Stroud is looking to get readings for the amount of salt in our streams in summer. They are looking for volunteers to take water samples like we did in the winter. Rachel, Carl, and Debbie are interested. Donna will connect them with Stroud.
- Burn Ban Discussion
 - West Vincent now has more than 5000 residents (over 6600). According to Act 101 and the PA DEP, townships with over 5000 residents need to have a burn ban. According to the DEP, it is not permissible to burn yard waste, leaves, or garbage.
 - Our Supervisors and Manager are working hard to get clear information on what language needs to be in the ban
 - There is also a recycling grant that the township qualifies for in other ways but has not been receiving because we don't have a burn ban. One consultant estimates that it would amount to \$14,000/ year
 - So far, it appears that bonfires are permissible. Yard waste could be collected and used as bonfire fuel. The local fire company needs to be notified before holding a bonfire
 - Backyard fire pits appear to be permissible at the size of 2' x 3'. Dana is trying to find out if we can make the size larger.
 - Farmers are excluded. We need a clear definition of what a 'farmer' is.
 - What if a property owner has trees – non-viable firewood - fall down or cut down by peco and they have no where to keep them on their property. What do they do?
 - What rights do property owners have when PECO is cutting down trees? It appears from our meeting that PECO is giving different residents different types of notice and different

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options of what becomes of the trees. We need from PECO a standardized method of alerting people that trees will be cut and allowing people to choose what happens with those trees.

- Newsletter article due Aug. 4. Matthew Bonner volunteered to write it. No one on the committee has time to write an article in the next couple of months.
- From the Floor - Matthew and Aidan Bonner came to the meeting. They would like to volunteer to help the environment. They could offer 20-30 hours a week until they return to college in the fall. We will ask the township manager if they would be permitted to remove invasives on West Vincent land without supervision.

Motion to Dismiss was made by Donna at 8:46, Rachel seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted, Donna Delany

Future Dates

June 28, 8 pm, rain date June 29 – master naturalist presentation on fireflies Opalanie Park

July 26, 10am – master naturalist presentation on native bees, Evans Park

Fall 2025 – master naturalist presentation on macroinvertebrates.

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