



**EAC Meeting Minutes
7/3/2025**

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:08pm

Committee Attendance

Those committee members in attendance were:

Barbara Mako, Donna Delany, Drew Wallace, Kathy McDevitt, Rachel McKay,
Dana Alan, Supervisor Liaison, by phone
Bernie Couris, Supervisor
Edward Theurkauf, Theurkauf Design & Planning, LLC

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

MOTION by Donna to approve the June minutes; second by Kathy. The motion carries unanimously.

Discussion with Ed Theurkauf on current woodland and environmental protections in West Vincent ordinances and zoning.

Edward Theurkauf spoke with the committee about current woodland and tree protections in West Vincent ordinances and zoning. He feels our protections are among the best in Pennsylvania.

1. One of the many reasons to protect woodlands in our township is that much of our township is in the Hopewell Big Woods, the largest contiguous forest in southeastern Pennsylvania, covering approximately 73,000 acres (114 square miles) across northern Chester and southern Berks counties. It's a significant ecological area known for its mature forests, diverse plant and animal life, and historical resources. Contiguous woodlands are fundamental to a healthy environment, supporting diverse life forms, providing essential ecological services, and contributing to human well-being. Preserving, protecting, and minimizing fragmentation of these areas is crucial for a sustainable future.
2. Critical value areas – interior forest, natural heritage area, old growth – 100 years or more
3. Protecting woodlands was added into our greenways protections (“greenways” is the term given to planned conservation areas in developments)
4. Clearing limits – specimen 36” –
 - a. All trees over 12” in diameter need to be replaced – with a reachback of 3-5 years – replacement based on total diameter of trees removed. A specimen tree is defined as a tree with a diameter of at least 36”
5. Heritage trees – can only be removed with township permission of township
6. Defined tree protection zone – can’t park or put a shed underneath, etc. 12x trunk diameter – sensitive and old have larger zones
7. Developer counts trees and sizes, then township verifies the numbers. If a large area, it is okay to pick one a sample are of a size about 100’ x 100’ and extrapolate.

8. Anyone planning a timber harvest needs to fill out an application. Part of the application is submitting a plan for what remedies will be taken if poor outcome – such as soil erosion or invasive plant growth.

Healthy Yard Recognition Steven Bazile and Gale Rippel received Healthy Yard recognition. They will come to the August meeting to get their sign.

Manager's Report - none

Subdivisions/Variance Applications – nothing new

Nature Tenders

- Volunteer update – Donna will meet with Mike Hogga and the Bonners soon to go over invasive removal volunteer project.

Pollinator Pitstop

- Fall 2025 plant swap – pick a date at next meeting
- 2026 West Vincent Seed Library and talk on starting seeds – discussed gathering residents who are successful at starting plants from seeds and having a panel discussion

Botanical Sanctuary

- Pick a day to visit – we will pick a date and time for the week of July 21 when the time gets closer, so we can check the weather report

Healthy Yard

- Pesticide usage – Rachel Griffith reached out to PennDot for us on their pesticide usage in WV. This was their reply: We spray all state roadways in West Vincent Twp. We don't provide specific date on when spraying will occur as it can change based on weather and other factors, the best we can say is the general time of year. Per state law all individuals with pesticide sensitivity that are registered on the Pesticide Hypersensitivity Registry with the Department of Agriculture are notified prior to any spraying activity if spraying will occur near within 500 ft of the addresses they have registered. If a person wishes to not have their property sprayed, they can apply for a permit to maintain the right way that meets or exceeds PennDOT maintenance standards.

<https://www.pa.gov/content/dam/copapwp-pagov/en/pennndot/documents/public/pubsforms/publications/pub%20370h.pdf> -Info

<https://www.pa.gov/content/dam/copapwp-pagov/en/pennndot/documents/public/pubsforms/forms/m-688h.pdf> - Permit



Birdtown

- We will work towards the installation of an owl or kestrel house at the community garden to help keep down the rodent population

Public Comment - none

Adjourn

Motion to Dismiss was made by Donna at 8:28, Kathy seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

Future Dates

August 9, 9am – master naturalist presentation on native bees, Evans Park

Fall – master naturalist presentation on macroinvertebrates, Wilson’s Corner Park

Fall – Fall Plant Swap

Fall – Book Club - *How Can I Help?*, Doug Tallamy

Respectfully Submitted, Donna Delany

