



West Vincent Township Environmental Advisory Council
January 8, 2026, 7:00 P.M.
Minutes

Called Meeting to Order at 7:02pm

Attendance:

Committee members: Barbara Mako, Carl Manthey, Carys Egan, Donna Delany, Drew Wallace, Holly DeCovny
Supervisor Liaison: Dana Alan
Other Attendees: Andrea Fonash, George Martin, Dave Weber, Ken Alan

Selection of Temporary Chair – Drew Wallace
Selection of Chair for 2026 – Donna Delany nominated by Drew, seconded by Carys, unanimously approved
Selection of Vice – Chair – Carys Egan nominated by Donna, seconded by Barbara, unanimously approved
Selection of Secretary – Donna Delany nominated by Barbara, seconded by Carys, unanimously approved
Open Space Liaison – Donna Delany appointed by Supervisors

December Minutes unanimously approved

Manager's report - none

Healthy Yard Recognition – no new applicants

Subdivision, Conditional Use, Variance Applications

The committee reviewed the plans for the proposed Toll Brothers/Bennett development. 3 EAC members plan to visit on Monday.
Donna made a motion to hold an extra EAC meeting on Jan 15 at 7pm to complete our discussion and write a review letter for the Supervisors and Planning Commission. Barbara seconded. Unanimously approved

2026 Goals

Discussion postponed until February

Salt Watch

Carl made a motion that the EAC participate for the second year in Stroud's Salt Watch, collecting water samples from Pickering Creek in our township on Jan. 30. Donna seconded. Unanimously approved. Donna will invite home school students. <https://stroudcenter.org/event/winter-salt-snapshot-2026/>

Nature Tenders

- Drew made a motion to hold a second annual live staking demo/giveaway on March 8. Donna seconded. Unanimously approved. Drew will provide the township with a map showing the proposed area for the planting to get approval of the project. It was noted that if winter is long and the ground is still frozen on March 8, we may need to postpone for one week.

Pollinator Pitstop

- 2026 Plant of the Year! Donna nominated Wild Petunia (*Ruellia humilis*), Barbara seconded. The motion passed unanimously, to spend money from our budget to buy seeds and planting medium. Donna will donate plug trays. Carl and Holly volunteered to care for the plug trays. We will pick a date for a seed giveaway as soon as the seeds arrive, as they need to be planted asap for winter sowing. We will give out the plants in the spring.
- Native Plant Swap – discussion as to date and whether to combine with Uwchlan Township and invite other townships, who have already selected their date, May 17, a date when Holly is not available. Decision postponed until Feb. meeting, in hopes of a spring Community Day.

Healthy Yard

- We selected a tentative date for our Healthy Yard Garden tour of June 20 with a rain date of June 21. It was noted there should be a special meeting just to plan this event. It was proposed that we pick 4 yards that highlight one of the healthy yard categories, we drive as a group, and model after West Pikeland's similar tour last year. We could visit 4 yards, and if East Vincent wants to join in, they could pick 4 yards.
- Drew will check on the county lawn to meadow conversion program we applied for. Perhaps we can figure a way to do this even if we don't get the grant and assistance.

Birdtown –

- Ground nesting in Opalanie: Woodcocks nest late March through June, but mostly mid-April. Donna will contact the township to request that the



township does not allow fox hunting in Opalanie each year starting on April 1.

- Purple martin condo and chimney swift tower – Donna contacted the game commission to see if there is information on whether we will be chosen to participate in the PA Game Commission program. If not, we could look into building and installing a chimney swift tower at Opalanie

Nature Book Club –

- we are still aiming for mid-summer. Possible book selections:
 - Backyard Bird Chronicles, Amy Tang
 - A Sand County Almanac, Aldo Leopold
 - Crow Planet, Lyanda Lynn Haupt

Heritage Trees – postponed until next month

Plastic bag ordinance – Donna requested that all present familiarize themselves with the ordinance and be the boots on the ground to make sure the ordinance is being followed. Report in next month.

Barbara informed us that the Goodwill store in Phoenixville recycles all electronics, and that we should get the word out. Barbara will get this info to the township for inclusion in the next newsletter. Dana reminded us that the township is accepting discarded holiday trees, which are distributed to farmers.

Updates From Other Committees - none

Public Comment - none

Adjourn Donna made a motion to adjourn at 9:08, Barbara seconded, the motion passed unanimously

Future Dates

EAC January Special Meeting January 15 7pm

EAC Stroud Salt Watch – January 30

Live Stake Demo/Giveaway – March 8, 10am, Evans Park

Northern Chester County EAC Gathering – March 7 or 15

Healthy Yard Garden Tour – tentatively June 20/rain date June 21



Respectfully Submitted, Donna Delany



**West Vincent Township
Environmental Advisory Council**

