



West Vincent Township Environmental Advisory Council
February 5, 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, Rachel McKay
Supervisor Liaison: Dana Alan
Two representatives of the Pulte Group were in attendance

Minutes

The minutes of the Jan. 8 and Jan. 15 meetings were unanimously approved

Announcements

- The EAC has been awarded the Purple Martin Gourd condo that we applied for 2 years ago. This is thanks to a PA Game Commission program to help 4 bird species of concern in PA, species whose numbers are declining rapidly. The condo was stored and should be installed before April.
- West Vincent is one of 6 townships has been accepted into the Chester County Lawn-To-Meadow Program. The EAC applied for this last year and met with representatives of the county several times. The county will pay a contractor to install a meadow in Evans Park. No further details are known at this time. The county will schedule a meeting to give out the details.
- Uwchlan Township has their Healthy Yard Recognition Program up and running. They join East Vincent and Upper Merion in using our program. Thanks going out to Elisabeta Polosca for providing the tech support for this project!
- We have again achieved the highest PA Bird Town status for 2025 – Gold. This is based on our volunteer outreach, activities, procedures, and our coordinating with other groups.

Healthy Yard Recognition – no new applicants

Subdivision, Conditional Use, Variance Applications

The committee reviewed the plans for the proposed Pulte development. The EAC agreed to not make a statement until our next meeting, by which time we should have the engineers report. The following suggestions were raised:



- If a traffic light is installed at Rt. 100, it would be good to install a sidewalk along Rt. 100 so people from the apartments and the new development could walk to the Ludwig's Village shops and restaurants.
- Review survey of trees to be removed when provided; ensure their replacement as per our ordinance
- Will require excellent stormwater management
- No uplights
- Make sure open space requirements met

2026 Goals

Discussion postponed

Salt Watch

Salt Watch was postponed due to frozen, inaccessible streams due to the extreme cold weather. It has not yet been rescheduled.

Township Building Drinking Water

- Brainstorming session on how to switch people desire to drink the township's well water instead of bottled water.
 - Annual water test to ensure potability and maintenance of systems. Hiring outside contractors who automatically come annually would minimize these steps being missed when there are changes in township personnel.
 - Investigate the cost of purchasing and installing a water filter/bottle refill/water fountain station similar to what our local schools have.
 - After installation, the EAC should create an educational sign to assure users that drinking water from this fountain is healthier for people and the planet than using plastic.
 - <https://www.elkay.com/us/en/drinking-water/bottle-filling-stations.html>



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The bottle filler in Rhonda Ellis's school



Library water fountain, bottle filler



Nature Tenders

- We decided to switch the location of the March 8 Live Stake demo to the pond at the Griffith Farm due to possible lawn-to-meadow planting in the selected area in Evans Park
- Donna made a motion to hold an Earth Day Nature Tenders event at Opalanie Park on April 25, 10am-12:30pm, rain date April 26, Barbara seconded, passed unanimously
- We discussed the need for an early spring mowing of Opalanie tree tube area and Pinehurst field.
- We discussed a fall nature tenders event for native tree planting along Weatherstone trail.

Pollinator Pitstop

- EAC members packaged Wild Petunia seeds to give away and set up a display in the township building lobby. Holly and Carl took seeds home to grow plants for us to give away in the spring.
- Plant swap discussion postponed
- Discussed making “buckslips” for our healthy yard and pollinator pitstop program to give out at events and leave in township building lobby. The healthy yard ones could be given out in new developments. Dana knows a student who might help.

Healthy Yard

- Will contractor who installs lawn-to-meadow possibly offer discounted services to residents? Can we include the Pinehurst field?
- We identified the need for a Healthy Yard Garden Tour planning committee. We have 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.

Birdtown –

- We need to determine when to install and to coordinate with the township. Donna will reach out to the Purple Martin Society or Jim Moffett. Barbara will coordinate the purple martin house installation with Holly. We will ask the Purple Martin Society to give another educational talk after installation.



- The Bird Town annual report was completed by Donna and Rachel and submitted in time. We met the standards as the highest level again – gold
- Rachel made a motion to hold a Woodcock Walk on March 13 at 6:30pm in Opalanie Park with a rain date of March 14, Donna seconded, passed unanimously
- Rachel made a motion to host a Bird Song presentation in mid spring. Donna seconded. The motion passed unanimously. We will choose a date by coordinating with the township calendar and the Werths.
- Ground nesting in Opalanie: Woodcocks nest late March through June, so no fox hunting after April 1.
- Chimney swift tower – we are still waiting to see if we will receive from 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 – postponed until next month

Updates From Other Committees - none

Public Comment - none

Adjourn Donna made a motion to adjourn at 8:34, Barbara seconded, the motion passed unanimously

Future Dates

Northern Chester County EAC Gathering – March 7, 9am, Backyard Nature Preserve

Live Stake Demo/Giveaway – March 8, 10am, Griffith Farm

Woodcock Walk – March 13. 6:30pm Opalanie Park rain date March 14

Nature Tenders - April 25, 10am – 12:30pm. Opalanie Park, rain date April 26

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

Respectfully Submitted, Donna Delany



