



**Montgomery Township
Environmental Advisory Committee
February 27, 2024
7:00 PM**

Montgomery Township's Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) met on February 27, 2024 at the Township Administration Building.

The members of the EAC in attendance included: Don Hamp, Linda Block-Love, Maureen Mirabella, Ryan Rex, Scott Hemmons, and Tim Miehle.

Reorganization & Regular Meeting

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes – January 23, 2024

- The minutes from the January 23, 2024 EAC meeting were approved unanimously.

New Business

- **Introduction to New EAC Member, Tim Miehle:** Mr. Miehle introduced himself to the EAC, and Ms. Mirabella shared information about the mission and goals of the EAC.

Old Business

- **Single-Use Product Ordinance Readiness:**
 - Ms. Staab shared that the Fire Department and other staff have been distributing the required notice signs to all Township businesses. The EAC also offered to help if needed.
 - Mr. Muller stated that the Township is not distributing additional signs to shopping centers reminding customers to bring their reusable bags due to limited resources. Each shopping center will handle additional parking lot signage as they see appropriate.
 - Mr. Muller also stated that residents and businesses are aware of the upcoming Ordinance going into effect on April 22nd, as the Township receives calls and emails with questions about the Ordinance.
 - Educational materials include a webpage dedicated to the Ordinance and a brochure.
- **Native Lawn Initiative/Umbrella Proposals:**
 - The EAC discussed two aspects of the initiative: reducing the mowing of municipal lands and identifying opportunities for planting native plants and creating pollinator pathways.
 - The EAC agreed to gather more information from the public works director, Greg, about the current mowing plan, the use of fertilizers and pesticides, and the feasibility of changing the landscaping practices.

- Mr. Muller showed a map of the Open Space in Montgomery Township for reference.
- The EAC also discussed the possibility of inviting a master gardener to give a presentation or a demo on native lawn management, but decided to wait until they have more clarity on the municipal plan.
- The EAC requested that Ms. Staab talk to Greg Reiff, the Public Works Director, and report back to the next meeting, and Mr. Muller follow up with the master gardener and the Penn State extension.
- E-Recycling: April 20, 2024 at 9am-Noon
 - Ms. Mirabella reminded the EAC to sign up for their volunteer time slot to help at Electronic Recycling at [EAC: E-Recycling Volunteers \(signupgenius.com\)](https://www.signupgenius.com)
- **Other Business**
 - **Shade tree ordinance and tree giveaway:**
 - Ms. Staab informed the EAC that the Shade Tree Commission is working on updating and enforcing the ordinance that requires street trees on residential properties.
 - Mr. Muller said that the tree giveaway on April 27 will include native species and educational materials.

Public Comment on items not on the agenda

- Township Resident Andy Mehrotra offered her experience and perspective on native plant gardening, the importance of leaving the leaves and stems for pollinators and the possibility of sharing the street tree ordinance with her neighborhood groups.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:03 PM.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 26, 2024 at 7:00 pm at the Township Administration Building. A virtual option will be available.