Montgomery Township
Environmental Advisory Committee
March 24, 2026
7:00 PM

Montgomery Township's Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) met on Tuesday, March 24, 2026, at the Township Administration Building.

The members of the EAC in attendance included: Paul Mau, Jonathan Katz, Maureen Mirabella, Jamie Pizzi, Andy Mehrotra, Don Hamp, Scott Hemmons (virtual)

Vice Chairwoman, Beth Staab was in attendance as the Board Liaison. Staff member, Ava Komasz (Interim Community Engagement Manager) was also in attendance.

Meeting Minutes

- **Call to Order –** The regular meeting was called to order at 7:13 p.m.
- **Approval of Minutes – February 24, 2026 –** On a motion by Mr. Katz and a second by Ms. Mirabella, the February 24, 2026, meeting minutes were approved.
- **New Business**
    a. **Review of Public Works Department's mowing map.**
        i. The EAC's goal is to increase no-mow activities which will decrease Township expenses and air pollution from admissions. Township staff will contact Greg Reiff, Director of Public Works, to attend the April 28th EAC meeting and discuss locations for no-mow zones or zones where grass is mowed less frequently.
    b. **E-Recycling – April 18, 2026 (9:00 a.m. - Noon)**
        i. The following members of the EAC are available to volunteer:
            - Jonathan Katz and Andy Mehrotra (starting 9:00 - 10:00 a.m.)
            - Jamie Pizzi and Paul Mau (10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.)
            - Don Hamp and Maureen Mirabella (11:00 a.m. - Noon)
            - Deb Rivas, Administrative Supervisor, and Ava Komasz, Interim Community Engagement Manager, will also be assisting with the event.
        ii. Staff will request information about the cost of the Township's annual Electronic Recycling.
        iii. Briefly discussed a future opportunity for metal recycling in the Township. This type of event would need sufficient staffing and traffic control. Alternatively, residents could be referred to local businesses that accept metal recycling. Ms. Staab will follow up with Carolyn McCreary, Township Manager, to confirm that referring residents to a local business is permitted. Potential to advertise metal recycling at the annual E-Recycling event and/or advertise online.

iv. Mr. Katz will create a one-sheeter advertising all upcoming events to hand out at the Electronic Recycling Event. This will include the EAC Movie Night, metal recycling, the upcoming pollinator plant demonstration, Arbor Day Tree giveaway, and link to a list of when plant nurseries in the area open. Ms. Komasz can share the one-sheeter on Township platforms and on the EAC webpage.

c. Define 2026 Projects + Resident Engagement Plan

i. EAC 2026 Planning.pptx

ii. On a motion by Ms. Mirabella and a second by Ms. Pizzi, this agenda item was postponed to the April 28th meeting. In the future, this agenda item will be discussed in January.

iii. Prior to the item postponement, the following concerns and topics were discussed:

- Ms. Mirabella expressed concerns about the lack of follow-through with projects. While the plans and goals are excellent, in the past, there have been communication breakdowns between Township staff and the EAC.
- Ms. Mirabella also expressed the need for a clear process of assigning tasks and following through with strong deadlines for updates and deliverables. These details, as decided, should be listed in meeting minutes. Mr. Katz emphasized the importance of natural ownership of tasks based on who championed the idea.

d. Website Ideas

i. Review Warrington's EAC website and generate ideas.

ii. Ms. Komasz provided background about the transition to a new website host, Govstack, and suggested that the EAC could start generating ideas for what information they would like on their new webpage. Ms. Mehrotra would like the EAC webpage to include more information overall. Mr. Hemmons will take the initiative to begin creating a list of potential topics, links, and content which will be reviewed at the April 28th meeting.

iii. The following process was decided for determining what content should be added to the website: EAC Member has an idea → Idea is presented to the group for approval → Once approved, the member will realize the idea to completion → Complete content will be sent to Ms. Komasz to discuss with Ms. McCreary for final approval → Ms. Komasz will content to the website and, when appropriate, social media.

e. **Movie Night – Extraordinary Caterpillar**
    i. The EAC plans to host a screening of *The Extraordinary Caterpillar*. The film is an hour long and is appropriate for school-aged children but entertaining for adults. Ms. Mehrotra will look into hosting a post-movie discussion. Mr. Katz will serve a supportive roll in preparing the post-movie discussion. Ms. Staab will take the lead on securing the date and venue (Montgomery Township Community and Recreation Center). A Saturday afternoon would be preferable. Ms. Mehrotra is also considering potential crafts, though the ideas are still in development. Ms. Mehrotra suggested that prior to the movie showing, the group could meet at the pollinator garden to learn more about pollinator plants.

- **Old/Other Business**
    a. **Plan for the remaining pollinator plant sets from Journeywork**
        i. Pollinator plants will be distributed on Friday, May 15th from 5:00-6:30 p.m. Ms. Staab reported that Mr. Shaffer will water the pollinator garden at the Community and Recreation Center. Ms. Staab invited EAC members to assist with the plant distribution if they are available.
        ii. Ms. Komasz shared the drafted social media post with the group contributing to refining the caption. Ms. Mehrotra will send the link with information about site preparation to Ms. Komasz after getting the information from Journeywork.
    b. **"Contact the EAC" button added to the website**
        i. Ms. Komasz informed the group that a "Contact the EAC" button was added to the website. Mr. Hamp suggested incoming emails should be forwarded to Mr. Katz and Ms. Staab.
    c. **Volunteer Opportunities**
        i. The group decided to postpone the following items to a future meeting to allow ample time to cover each topic.
            - Review Scott's mockup: EAC Volunteers Mockup.pdf
            - Review Maureen's list: Volunteer Opportunities Offered by other EAC's in Pennsylvania.docx
    d. **Group Chat Communications**
        i. The group is no longer interested in a group chat. Email is sufficient.
    e. **Park Cleanup**
        i. Ms. Staab was in contact with Mr. Reiff about coordinating a park cleanup in partnership with the Park & Recreation Advisory Board. Mr. Reiff can provide collection bags. Waivers and age requirements would be necessary for participants.

f. Meadow Landscapers

i. Mr. Katz provided a list of potential meadow landscaping vendors. He will begin calling the listed vendors to obtain proposals and quotes. Ms. Mirabella gave context to the group that Derek Dureka, Director of Parks & Recreation for Upper Dublin Township, has spearheaded several environmentally conscious initiatives including hiring a full-time Natural Recourse Manager. His efforts serve as a good example to strive for.

- **Public Comment**
  a. There was no public comment.
- **Adjournment –** The regular meeting adjourned at 8:29 p.m.
  a. The next meeting is scheduled for April 28, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. at the Township Administration Building. A virtual option will be available.