

Upper Mount Bethel Township Environmental Advisory Council

Wednesday November 6, 2024

7 PM UMBT Township Building

1. Call to Order

Judy called the meeting to order at 6:58 PM.

2. Roll Call

Present: Dohl DiFebo, Alexandra Dutt, Allison Heinsohn, Judith Henckel, and BOS liaison David Friedman, Supervisor Johnathan Erler

Absent: Courtney Gilmour

3. Approval of Agenda

The agenda for November was reviewed and approved as presented.

4. Special Presentation

A GIS (Geographic Information System) presentation was given by Mackenzie Geisner (GIS Planner) and Joey Dotta (Regional Planner) from LVPC, covering the interactive mapping project developed for Slate Belt Multi-municipal Comprehensive Plan members. This mapping tool, available on the Slate Belt Plan website (<https://www.planslatebelt.org/>), includes layers for environmental, zoning, and floodplain information.

- **Key Points:**

- The Comprehensive Plan completed a 45-day review, with adoption meetings scheduled (public hearing on December 9).
- Layers in the land use maps are extensive and will be continuously updated.
- Carol Engineering completed work on the preserve with the UMBT already; Mackenzie will explore potential data-sharing options.
- Discussion on the possibility of a private Upper Mount Bethel map license for more control and collaboration with engineering and municipal teams.
- Committees will trial the mapping tool to identify potential uses before considering a dedicated license.

5. Approval of October Minutes

Motion to approve the October meeting minutes made by Alison, seconded by Dohl, and approved.

6. Public Comment

- **Johnathan Erler** petitioned the EAC to recommend solar panel installation on the municipal building to offset brownouts and energy costs.
 - **Details:**
 - Project cost: \$82,000–\$122,000
 - Monthly energy generation: 411 kW, offsetting an average \$700 energy bill

- Payoff period: 5.5 years with a grant, 11 years without
- Non-permanent installation, offering potential reuse elsewhere
- Motion by Alex in favor of seeking a grant for solar panel installation, seconded by Alison. Judy will draft a memo to the supervisors.

7. Old Business

- **Delaware River Wild & Scenic Expansion Study and Well Ordinance**
 - Expected completion by Monday. The well ordinance will proceed to the supervisors for a public hearing and posting.

8. Plan Slate Belt Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan

- Available at <https://planslatebelt.org>.

9. EAC Website and Outreach Initiatives

- Discussion on long-term goals, future projects, educational programs, and both digital and written media for EAC outreach.

10. New Business

- **2025 Meeting Dates**
 - January meeting moved from January 1 to January 8.
- **Slate Belt Heritage and Art Map**
 - Request from Slate Belt Rising to contribute UMBT sites of interest for a heritage and art map. Members to gather location details, coordinates, photos, and descriptions for future discussion.
- **Election of Officers for Next Year**
 - Courtney will need to submit a letter to Cindy. Website upgrades are underway by Stavros.

11. Public Q&A

- Discussion on developing a 3-year or 5-year plan for EAC initiatives.

12. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:33 PM.