

Upper Mount Bethel Township Environmental Advisory Council

Wednesday May 7, 2025

7 PM UMBT Township Building

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 7:05pm

Roll Call: Present: Dohl DiFebo, Alexandra Dutt, Judith Henckel, Courtney Gilmour and BOS liaison David Friedman, **Absent:** Allison Heinsohn

Approve or Amend May agenda: Dohl made a motion to approve the agenda, and Courtney seconded it.

Approve April minutes: Dohl made a motion to approve the minutes as amended and Judy seconded it.

Courtesy of the Floor/Public Comment:

Charles Baltic: Going to reserve comments to Plan Slate Belt.

Nick thanked the committee for the Earth Day cleanup.

Old Business

Review for priority and future action:

- Road cleanup and after event Saturday April 26, 2025 (Earth Day April 22 – 55 year anniversary):
 - A total of 1.78 tons of garbage was collected in the Slate Belt as a whole.

Township committee, council, commission, board joint roundtable visioning meeting. Not open to the public. (See new business)

- The purpose is still to be decided, but in the end it got everyone together and there was some overlap in the committee that identified where we can work together. Discussion ensued on if some of these meetings could be open to the public.

Plan Slate Belt Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan (scheduled for BOS approval vote on January 27, 2025 meeting). (<https://planslatebelt.org/>)

Next step: signing an agreement to send out an RFP hire a planner and apply for grants.

- We are part of the plan, but we opted out on the next step so we will not be on the RFP.
- Charles Baltic is requesting our committee to give the EAC's opinion on the Plan Slate Belt Comprehensive Plan. The Economic Advisory Council and the Planning Commission have both made statements on this.

- EAC discussed the potential need for a town hall to further educate people on what the specific zoning requirements are as it is complicated.
- Discussion ensued about how these bigger issues are taking up space from other community issues.
- The committee agreed that we will make an informed decision at the next meeting.

Wild & Scenic tributary study data progress – no updates

Stream/road crossings signs, working with MJWA Road salt study data

- Hopefully by the fall the signs that will have faded will be replaced
- Allison is working on the salt study

GIS programing status – no update

EAC website or other outreach (GIS) – Revised UMBT website. Website pictures and other materials requested.

- Need to contact Stavros and set up a meeting with him
- We can get a tab on here that we can have our informative articles listed

Slate Belt Rising Heritage and Art Map – Slate Belt Museum - no updates

Kittatinny Ridge Landscape Coalition speaker, literature, virtual newsletter/website <https://kittatinnyridge.org>

- Delaware Greenway Partnership, and Kittatinny will give us swag and educational lectures if we can get enough people to commit to attend

New Business

Education outreach – tri fold brochure on regional trails and tourism

- Brochures that already exist are still relevant.
- Sojourn has been going on for so many years, what if we did something as a region?
- Could we put together a tri-fold that includes all the resources that we already have?

Liberty to Water Gap trail meeting will have their quarterly meeting on May 21st from 5-6pm at the park

EAC Facebook: Discussion on making an EAC Facebook page that links to the EAC tab to direct people to educational articles and promote events.

- We need to go before the supervisors to get this going. We are going to put this on the agenda for an endorsement for this Monday's supervisor meeting.

- Discussion on electronic billboard that has the events that are going

Public Q&A

- Dohl asked when the garbage contract is coming up:
 - We can get out of the contract on December 31st, it is a 5 year contract. The Township is talking with Waste Management to see if we can keep working with them and make things more affordable.
 - Waste Management is providing us with recycling reports every quarter showing what is recycled of each material by weight.
 - Discussion ensued around if we could make this recycling report is public. This way people can know that their stuff is actually getting recycled. To be further discussed at the next EAC meeting.
- Charles Baltic asked about the avian flu, and if there were any educational efforts to talk about this.
 - Dohl explained all the recent information about avian flu available through Penn State Extension and other Agricultural Organizations.

Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned at 9:02pm