

Upper Mount Bethel Township Environmental Advisory Council

Wednesday August 6, 2025

7 PM UMBT Township Building

Call to Order: at 7:03pm

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

Approve or Amend August agenda: Allison made the motion to approve the agenda and Alex seconded the motion.

Approve July minutes: Allison made the motion to approve the July minutes and Judy seconded the motion.

Courtesy of the Floor/Public Comment: none

Old Business

Review for priority and future action:

Solar Farm ad hoc committee:

- About large properties, not people just putting panels on their house.
- Alex is going to write a letter of interest
- Need 3-5 people for the committee.
- As it is ad hoc, the committee can meet as needed. They will need to find an open slot for the meeting. The easiest way to do this is to find the openings on the calendar and put this in the email to members.
- The solar ordinance will need to be submitted to the Solicitor, engineer, and LVPC for review, then the draft needs to be advertised twice.

Education outreach – natural features/regional trails and tourism use of Plan Slate Belt interactive maps program

- Fred Stine from Delaware Riverkeeper Network (DRN)
 - o Their suggestion is to get decision makers and the public to see our area as a destination for passive and active recreation and revitalize the small businesses in the area.

- He is talking about making a brochure with the map, and what is in the area. Highlighting the local businesses and the local trails in the area. They have a small grants available to help with this.
- The Upper Mount Bethel Economic Development committee made a brochure that highlights the local businesses in the area and some of the local parks, so Judy will go back and let Fred know this.
- Future Events
 - We Need volunteers to do educational events.
 - Make a post that we can try and recruit volunteers for different events.
 - August event will be hard since we haven't gotten the Facebook page up.
 - Brodhead Watershed Association ramble on August 22nd is private property. This year it sounds like it is going to be done at Kirkridge in October to peak leaf season. Normally you meet in a central location and you can have different choices of which trail you use. Somebody that knows the area leads each hike.
 - Discussion ensued on how to organize the first event. It should be easy, like a hike at Twin Lakes or Lake Minsi. If we do Lake Minsi we might need a permit.

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

- Alex will make the Facebook page this month and make anyone who is interested on the committee an admin. This will just be for educational events.

Wild & Scenic tributary study data progress

- Tara will have a public meeting Tuesday August 19 at 7:30 PM for people to ask questions on the study before it is on the supervisor's agenda to be voted upon.

**Discussion for Committee chair/vice chair joint meeting
August 4**

- This has been delayed.

UMBT EAC/MJWA road/stream sign grant application

- Application was submitted.

Slate Belt Rising Heritage and Art Map – Slate Belt Museum

- <https://www.slatebeltrising.org/map> - link to the interactive map

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

- No further discussion.

New Business

Informal discussion: Municipal building feasibility study

- The township is looking at ideas for a new municipal building in case we get funding for development.
- Just seeing if we have money for the feasibility study.
- Eastern Industry building had a lot of issues, including racoons in the building, uninhabited for years.
- A discussion ensued on how the Eastern Industry building and current township building would require heavy renovations. It was brought up how a building at the park could showcase our Township with the view and could potentially save money on renovation costs.
- There was a plan made in 2016 that had the community park master plan that includes the municipal building in the park.

Public Q&A

Meeting was adjourned at 8:22pm