

West Pikeland Township
Environmental Advisory Council
9/1/2026 July Meeting Minutes

Attending: Council Members- Present: Sarah Newman, Janet Parry, Linda Reichert, Glenn Wenger, Jim Maguire, Mike Leader and Nancy Bartley. Public: John Matthews and Bryan Maher

1. Call to order: 6:02 PM
2. Agenda for meeting was approved.
3. Minutes from Aug. 4, 2026 were approved.
4. Public Comment:

Linda- Indiscriminate Spraying herbicides along roadsides in township. PennDOT is spraying to defoliate overhanging branches so they do not have to get out the hedge trimmer type machine. If residents put out “no spray” signs in front of their property, does PennDOT abide by the signs? PennDOT is understaffed so difficult to get in touch with anyone. Maybe we could reach out to our representatives to find out more info on both road salt and herbicide use when it comes to PennDOT? Nancy will contact a person she knows who is allergic to spray and see how she deals with the spray near her house.

5. Committee Rep. Updates:

- 1) Glenn- Open Space: No meeting.
- 2) Sarah- Parks and Rec: No meeting. Will start back up Sept. 3rd
- 3) Mike and Glenn- BOS: Last meeting they covered how to proceed with the sandbox at the Pine Creek Park Playground. The new design of the new playground, which will be replaced with grant money, will include the sandbox. There is discussion to change the signage at the sandbox. The Inquirer has an article on the Playground and Ryan’s Sandbox. The Purchase of Joe’s/Car dealership building was discussed. The surveys were all good now in Phase 2 study. All is a go but looking into the costs to place the flat roof- the sloped roof is ok. The EAC highly recommends that Solar Power will be installed as the primary energy source at the new building. Mike will let Joan know about the Solar Webinar via Solar PA. Linda brought up Permeable asphalt material since the lot will have to be resurfaced. The EAC would like to be heavily involved in the landscaping around the property.

6. New Business

- 1) Data Center Event Postponement- Sarah: Even though the event was postponed, we will still search for an appropriate speaker. In the meantime Jim will post links to videos on Penn Future and Data Centers from We Conserve PA website. This will roll out the topic for us until we find an appropriate speaker. Mike has not heard back from PECO for potential speakers.
- 2) Community Garden- Janet and Linda: Leaning towards the front meadows as you drive into Pine Creek Park. First of all the area is flat- Walnut Lane is difficult because of its topography.

The south side of the lane tends to flood so would like to use an area of this field to start a pollinator plot (using the \$6000.00 Mike Minnick has offered from a Land Trust Grant). The north side of the lane would possibly be a good place for starting the WPT Community Garden. Not sure what the water table is like so will have to do a Perk Test. May have to do raised beds instead. Could make it ADA accessible, which would be a good way to get grants. Janet will recontact West Vincent (she did not hear back from them) for information on their community garden. Below is a strategy to moving forward with the project:

- a) Work with P and R- present at one of their meetings. Will need volunteers- could they help us find volunteers. We will ask our volunteer list.
 - b) Come up with a Roadmap after the P and R meeting
 - c) Funding- Grants, combine funding from WPT/EAC/P and R. Glenn will contact Rachel Griffith (Sustainability committee with Chester County). Set up a "Friends of the Community Garden" Fund for donations. Sarah would also like to incorporate this with Bird Town USA and attracting birds. Will address this in 2027.
- 3) EAC Webpage Update- Jim: Jim will send out a request to the EAC volunteer list for volunteers to help with tree maintenance at Pine Creek Park. Jim will set up a new QR code so that it will take you directly to the EAC webpage on the WPT site and he will email the new QR code to Sarah to update the contact information. Also Jim will set up an archive for all of our past articles we have submitted to the WPT Newsletter.
 - 4) Township Yard Waste Composting- Sarah, Glenn and Bryan: Bryan and Sarah consulted with Spike about setting this up for WPT residents. He does not encourage us to pursue this for WPT. He did this for another township and it was not worth the hassle. Permits are needed and it is a potential fire hazard. Sarah was wondering if we could collaborate surrounding townships.
 - 5) Fall Festival EAC Table- Everyone: The event will occur on Oct. 11 from noon to 4:00 pm. Mike Craner will have his Tesla Roadster next to our booth. He will address Solar Power and EVs. Linda will split her time between two booths. Sarah will update the Trifold with new QR code. Will be giving away seeds again (redbud pods- Sarah, Joe Pye Weed/Bottle Brush Grass- Janet, Milkweed seeds- Glenn). Glenn will order 25 White Oak seedlings to hand out at the table. Linda will provide bowl with candy. It was approved that expenditures for the Fall Festive Table will not exceed \$300.00. To recap what is needed for the EAC table: Trifold, Vinyl Sign, Seeds with information, Sign up sheets for volunteers at the 2 events this Fall, bowl/candy, Oak trees, past articles, Glenn will have before and after pics of Meta's Garden. Jim will help with the event- set-up, parking, etc. Shifts- we will coordinate via email.
 - 6) Pine Creek Park Projects- Glenn:
 - a) Track Area where invasives were removed last year. The area was sprayed again with herbicide and looks barren. Need a maintenance program for this area since the weeds/vines will continue to come back. First approach P and R to help with this project. Come up with a maintenance program. Present to WTP Manager and then go to BOS. Will have to look for a grant to help match funds. Hoping to start adding back native plants to the area (pawpaws, persimmons and spicebush were suggested).

- b) Meadow in Front Field- West Pikeland Trust will provide \$6000.00 for a meadow strip with native plants on the northside of the lane. First need to get approval from P and R, then Manager's approval and then get BOS approval.
- c) We have scheduled a Pine Creek site visit as a group on Sept. 12th at 2:00 PM. Will discuss replanting along the track, Meadow strip planting in front field and community garden location.

7) WPT Newsletter Topic-Mike: Community Solar.

7. Old Business-

- 1) Volunteer letter- Jim: Linda's welcome letter was sent out along with volunteer sign up for events that are coming up. Need to remind them that they signed up for the event. Jim will solicit scout troops for volunteer events.
- 2) Burn Ordinance Modifications- On the back burner until the purchase of the building is in order. Will revisit the ordinance over the winter. Will re-write the ordinance with the modifications. Will need to be ready to enforce the new ordinance next Spring.

8. Announcements: Next meeting is Oct. 6, 2026 at 6:00 PM.

9. Adjourn- 7:42 PM

Action Items:

- 1) **Nancy-** Reach out to person who is allergic to herbicide spray and see if the "no spray" policy works for them.
- 2) **Mike-** Provide Joan with the Solar PA Webinar information.
- 3) **Jim-** Add links to We Conserve PA informational videos on Penn Future and Data Centers to EAC webpage.
- 4) **Glenn-** Reach out to Rachel Griffith on Community Gardens information.
- 5) **Jim-** EAC Webpage- get volunteers to Sarah who signed up for events, email the updated QR code to Sarah and post past EAC articles on EAC Webpage.
- 6) **Sarah-** Tri-fold board and vinyl sign for HYS Fall Festival Table
- 7) **Glenn, Sarah and Janet-** Gather seeds to give away at HYS Fall Festival Table.
- 8) **Glenn-** Buy White Oak Seedlings for HYS Fall Festival Table.
- 9) **Linda-** Bowl of Candy for HYS Fall Festival Table.
- 10) **Glenn-** Get before and after pics of Meta's Garden for HYS Fall Festival Table.
- 11) **Jim-** Provide volunteer sign up sheets for upcoming EAC events for HYS Fall Festival Table.
- 12) **Glenn-** Provide past EAC articles for HYS Fall Festival Table.