

West Pikeland Township
Environmental Advisory Council

8/5/2025 Meeting Minutes

Attending: Council Members- Present: Janet Parry, Linda Reichert, Bryan Maher, Glenn Wenger, John Mathews Mike Leader, and Sarah Newman Public: Jim McGuire

- 1) Call to order: 7:37 PM
- 2) Agenda was approved.
- 3) Minutes from June 3, 2025 were approved.
- 4) Public Comment:

Mike- He attended an East Pikeland Township EV showcase event on June 24th. It was well attended and he suggested we have a similar event in WPT.

Sarah- CC Watershed Stewards are teaming up with the Stroud Research Center to study the impact of road salt on Pickering Creek. Right now they are gathering data this year (Fall, Winter, Spring and Summer) to determine the baselines of the testing sites. The creek has many hotspots with a lot of salt. There are only one or two testing sites where the salt levels were low enough to be potable- this is not good. They will use the data to help advocate for changes to icy/snowy road management practices. The big issue is that salt is not processed in the surrounding environment so it is in the soil as a contaminant. It was suggested that the group doing the research consult West Vincent to see if they have changed their icy/snowy road management practices to help limit the use of road salt in their township. If they have, what are the new practices and suggest WPT to incorporate them into our road management practices.

- 5) Committee Rep. updates:

Bryan- BOS: Next meeting is August 18th at 7:00 PM. It will focus on funding for the WPT Police Department.

- 6) New Business

- a) Sustainable Saturday Vegetable Garden recap- Glenn: 5 people attended- Very interested and great venue, but low attendance.
- b) Sustainable Sunday Solar Energy- Bryan: 6 people attended with 3 very interested in installing their own system. Very productive discussions. At the next meeting we need to discuss how to boost the attendance to our informational meetings. Need to plan the advertising and Jim McGuire volunteered to help with this. It was suggested that maybe have the events in the newsletters Kristine Howard sends out to her constituents. Township -email blast just our event to their WPT resident email list. Maybe switch to week nights- Saturdays are very busy for most families.

- c) Pine Creek tree planting maintenance and invasive plant management- Glenn and Sarah:
Glenn- Where the invasives were removed this year around the track, they are all growing back. An herbicide treatment is needed again. This will need to take place between now and first frost. Two options- 1) Buy the herbicide and have Spike apply it. If we go with this route, make sure Spike is in the loop via Jim. Glenn will find out the cost for the herbicide. 2) Use a separate company at the price of \$1190. Will use Open Space money for either treatment to pay for the treatment. A vote was proposed to approve the herbicide treatment of the invasives in Pine Creek Park. Sarah seconded it. All approved. Bryan will present to the BOS to determine which option to use to get the job done.
Sarah- Tree Maintenance of the new plantings. Sarah and her son spent two and a half hours repairing damage to the cages/stakes, which the mowing crew clipped while cutting the grass around the trees and shrubs. That's a lot of labor to correct this problem. Is there some way to inform the mowing crew to be more careful around the plantings? We either need help from Spike to help with this maintenance or increase the volunteer pool. Also with the maintenance help, many trees are damaged after the wind from storms- the tubes have toppled over and stakes are broken. These also need to be fixed.
- d) New Resident Survey- Linda: Glenn has an example of our old survey. We should build on this. Ask West Vincent for ideas and if they have a survey they can share with us? Plan to discuss at next meeting and have one ready by the end of September for the HYS Fall event in October and the November election.
- e) PROST update- Sarah: Nothing to report.
- f) 2026 WPT EAC Budget- Bryan: He will send out the 2025 Budget to everyone. We spent a lot of the budget. May want to add to the budget a reserve to cover costs that other committees will not cover (i.e. weed control). Mike received an estimate from CHICO Electric for updating the rest of the lighting in the township building to LED bulbs/lights. The estimate was \$6800.00. Mike will apply for grants. If we do not get the full coverage of the costs via a grant, hopefully the BOS or other committee funding can cover the total cost by matching the fund. Mike emphasized that the BOS approved the CEPT, which included pursuing the updating the lighting in the building to LED lightning.
- g) Disk Golf in Pine Creek Park Update- Bryan: Nat. Lands rejected the proposal to move holes onto their easements in the park. They plan to change the longest hole into two holes. Bryan will email this new proposal to the EAC.
- 7) Old Business- none.
- 8) Announcements.

Next meeting will be Sept 9, 2025 at 7:30 PM. Bryan will confirm that this will be changed to accommodate BOS and Labor Day conflict.

- 9) Adjourn: 8:39 PM

Action Items:

- 1) **Glenn-** Find out the cost of the herbicide to treat the invasives in Pine Creek Park.
- 2) **Linda-** Ask West Vincent EAC for survey ideas.

- 3) **Bryan**- Email to EAC last year's EAC budget and budget ideas for 2026.
- 4) **Bryan**- Email to EAC the new Disk Golf course proposal for Pine Creek Park.
- 5) **Bryan**- Confirm the next EAC meeting on Sept. 9th.