

Newtown Borough Environmental Advisory Council
February 9, 2026 Meeting Minutes FINAL
Council Chambers 23 N. State St. Newtown PA 18940 and Zoom

Members Present: Glenn Beasley, Katherine Borish, Summer Bound, Pat Foster, Tim Markey (Chair), Samantha McGraw (Secretary), Bob Mirales, Julia Woldorf (Council Liaison)

Public: John Wathen

1. Amendments to the Agenda
 - a. None
2. Approve January Minutes
 - a. Katherine made the motion to approve the January minutes, Bob seconded, and all were in favor.
3. EAC Priorities for 2026 (and any new priorities)
 - a. Sustainable Landscaping Research - No updates. In response to Newtown Borough updating its website, Bob suggested looking at the Lower Merion website as a model. Bob will also send out the Lower Merion leaf blower ordinance and summary of public commentary, including the PDF of their sustainability plan.
 - b. Newtown Borough Climate Action Plan - Meeting with PennState weekly. Inventory complete – committee members should read through the whole inventory and think about ways the Borough can reduce greenhouse gases. PennState has been looking into recommendations of electric vehicles and residential solar. A few committee members noted the challenges associated with residential solar due to the percentage of households in the historic district. Another suggestion was to promote different types of rebate programs for the community, such as those that encourage residents to change their energy source (ex. oil heat to heat pumps). Another suggestion was to revisit the transportation sector and the single trash hauler discussion and see if PennState could model the Borough going from four trash haulers to one. PennState will be providing us with an update on their work by their spring break, and then at the end of the semester.
 - c. Native Plants – There will be a container gardening event in the May – June timeframe at Patriot’s Park in partnership with the Master Gardeners. Container gardens will also be featured at Borough Hall. Katherine will be submitting a grant application to the Pennsylvania Native Plant Society to

fund this initiative. In addition to the grant, donations will also be accepted.

- d. Newtown Borough, in partnership with the Newtown Theatre, will feature the Extraordinary Caterpillar movie at Newtown Theatre on Earth Day, April 22, with a possible panel discussion afterwards. The committee discussed different ideas to promote the event using the film's promotional toolkit, as well as outreach channels, such as the school district. There was some discussion about the potential overlap with this event and what the school district does for Arbor Day. EAC to consider a native plant raffle at the film screening.
 - e. Storm Sewer round decal project - ongoing
4. Borough Council Update
- a. Meeting on the 18th for the native plants grant presentation by Summer will be postponed and possibly rescheduled for the 24th.
 - b. Borough newsletter article due April 1. The decision was made to have Tim write the article, which will cover a variety of topics. There was also a discussion about having Summer write an article for the fall newsletter on salt use.
5. New Business
- a. Voted to approve support / signing on of letter regarding recycling of political signs in Bucks County - Tim motioned to sign on, Katherine seconded, all in favor. Glenn will inform Middletown of our decision.
 - b. Discussed interest in participating in Bucks County Municipal Sustainability Dialogues on March 12, and Lawn to Meadow Training Event on February 24 - Summer will be attending the February 24 event, and Tim the March 12 event.
 - c. Discussed interest in participating in meeting of Local EACs hosted by the Yardley Borough EAC on April 25. This will be held at the Lower Makefield Twp building 10-12pm.
6. Public Comment
- a. A member of the public in attendance, John Wathen, introduced themselves and shared their background in groundwater contamination and PFAS treatment. The conversation ended with a discussion about an upcoming \$5.5 million PFAS treatment facility.
7. Confirm Next EAC Meeting - Monday, March 9, 2026 at 7:00pm
8. Motion to Adjourn
- a. Tim made the motion to adjourn, and Pat seconded with all in favor and the meeting was adjourned.

For the Council,

Samantha A. McGraw

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