

Newtown Borough Environmental Advisory Council
May 11, 2026 Meeting Minutes
Council Chambers 23 N. State St. Newtown PA 18940 and Zoom

Members Present: Katherine Borish, Pat Foster, Tim Markey (Chair), Bob Mirales, Julia Woldorf (Council Liaison)

Absent - Glenn Beasley, Summer Bound, Samantha McGraw

1. Amendments to the Agenda - none
2. Approve May Minutes - Bob made the motion and Pat seconded, all approved.
3. EAC Priorities for 2026
 - a. Sustainable Landscaping Research - Bob's primer on gas leaf blowers - background and history, public health issues and pollution, case studies in communities adopting ban ordinances - was discussed. This comprehensive overview will be instrumental in educating Borough Council and framing the need for action. A presentation will be scheduled for the August 5 Borough Council work session. We agreed to present several ordinance options to Borough Council based on the experiences of other communities. There was discussion about residential versus commercial landscaper use.
 - b. Newtown Borough Climate Action Plan - Discussion of the Climate Action Plan presentation at the April 15 Borough Council meeting at the Chancellor Center. Borough Council seemed interested and there were several questions. The final Plan document is due from the Penn State team, Tim will follow up with Peter Dawson. EAC will prioritize action items and there was discussion about a comprehensive Climate Action page on the new Borough website.
 - c. Native Plants – The logistics of the container gardening event - “Plant Native Grow Happy” - on May 16 at Patriot's Park was discussed. Event is sold out. Master Gardeners have donated two large pots that will reside at Borough Hall and about half the plants needed have been donated. Pat is providing the 6 tables needed and offered to help with setup. The Doylestown EAC Native Plants trifold brochure has been donated. EAC budget is available if needed.
 - d. The Earth Day event, “The Extraordinary Caterpillar”, at the Newtown Theatre on April 22 was successful.
 - e. Storm Sewer round decal project - Pat will keep track of the number of decals installed and update Judy Musto for the DEP annual report.
4. Borough Council Update
 - a. Realty Landscaping is the new Borough contractor. The bid had electric equipment options and EAC will review the bid document and make recommendations for moving to some or all electric equipment. The EAC will

also monitor trash receptacle emptying and the quality of the landscaping in an effort to set a sufficiently high bar for our new contractor.

- b. Julia updated us on the EV charging ordinance that is in progress. There are two parts to the ordinance. First is a requirement to include EV charging capability in all new development projects. The second concerns installing EV chargers in the public right of way. There are concerns from Council about the complexities of allowing 240v charging lines in that right of way and about the implications of public parking when a resident installs a personal “street parking” charger. Julia is recommending that the ordinance be split to allow the new development regulation to be passed while the right of way complexities are sorted.
- c. Julia updated us on a new large scale development on the border of the Borough between Penn St and Newtown-Yardley Rd. Jim Worthington is proposing 300 apartment units in two four-story buildings. There are serious concerns about traffic impacts in the Borough.

5. New Business

- a. Discussion of event on May 20, 6:30 - 9:00 at the Washington Crossing Visitor Center. Katherine will represent our EAC at “Nature’s Best Hope: Screening and Panel” features a Doug Tallamy video followed by expert panel on May 20, 6:30 - 9:00 at the Washington Crossing Visitor Center.
- b. The annual Welcome Day event is June 14. Pat will be staffing the Artesian Water table and asked EAC to consider handouts, etc.

6. Public Comment - none

7. Confirm Next EAC Meeting - Monday, June 8, 2026 at 7:00pm

8. Motion to Adjourn

- a. Tim made the motion to adjourn, and Bob seconded with all in favor and the meeting was adjourned.

For the Council,

Tim Markey