

Newtown Borough Environmental Advisory Council
July 13, 2026 Meeting Minutes
Council Chambers 23 N. State St. Newtown PA 18940 and Zoom

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

Absent - Summer Bound, Samantha McGraw

1. Amendments to the Agenda - none
2. Approve May Minutes - Katherine made the motion and Bob seconded, all approved except Glenn who abstained.
3. EAC Priorities for 2026
 - a. Sustainable Landscaping Research - Bob is scheduled to deliver an overview of the EAC position on sustainable landscaping, with a focus on gas powered leaf blowers to the Borough Council Work Session on Wednesday 8/5. Bob will confirm attendance with Julia in the next two weeks. The EAC discussed an interesting analysis on the economics of switching from gas powered to electric battery leaf blowers. This analysis, which shows a breakeven on the switch in less than two years, strongly supports our position on phasing out gas powered leaf blowers, and eventually all gas powered landscaping equipment.
 - b. Newtown Borough Climate Action Plan - Tim updated the EAC on next steps for the NBCAP. The idea is to create various 'resource pages' on the Borough website that would educate and guide residents with actionable information on making their homes more energy efficient and switching to EV and hybrid vehicles. Though primarily focused on the residential sector, the commercial sector will also be included. Information uncovered by the Penn State LCAP team will be incorporated with additional research for the 'resource pages'. Julia suggested that Tim reach out to Jim McAuliffe, chair of HARB, to begin discussions about the compatibility of energy efficiency and historic preservation.
 - c. Native Plants – The May 16 Native Plants Container Gardening workshop was briefly discussed and Katherine was thanked for her considerable efforts to ensure a successful event. Another native plants event is being considered for the fall and the idea of a 'resource page' for Native Plants on the Borough website was brought up.
4. Borough Council Update
 - a. Realty Landscaping update. There was general disappointment with the performance of Realty thus far. Though they gave us an electric equipment option, it turns out they have no electric equipment. Their performance of

landscaping duties has been sub-par and they have been extremely inconsistent emptying the many trash receptacles. Julia will follow-up with Realty about electric equipment and pricing and will reinforce our expectations of quality work. Julia recommends photos of problem areas with a brief description be sent for follow-up.

- b. The development and rollout of the new Borough website is on hold as Council was not happy with the initial product. There is no timeline yet for the release of a final product.
- c. Julia updated us on the EV charging ordinance that is currently on hold.
- d. Julia updated us on three parks / open space projects. A grant was received to upgrade the Brian Gregg Park. The 110 State St easement will be developed as a trail with benches that will connect to The Commons. And a complete review of trails and sidewalks will be done with potential action steps identified and prioritized.
- e. A search to find a new Borough Manager is ongoing.

5. New Business

- a. Yardley EAC is working on a Single Use Plastics ordinance and has asked us for some guidance and insight. Katherine volunteered to compile the materials and resources we used and forward to Yardley EAC.
- b. Gina Tognini, and Council, has proposed that Judy Musto schedule recurring ZOOM meetings and create draft meeting minutes for all of the Borough committees. We are using the ZOOM AI meeting transcript tool and will work with Judy to see how it works out.

6. Public Comment - none

7. Confirm Next EAC Meeting - Monday, August10, 2026 at 7:00pm

8. Motion to Adjourn

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

For the Council,

Tim Markey