Environmental Advisory Committee

Meeting: Wednesday, May 06, 2026

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: -1014 Darby Rd., Havertown PA, 19083 - Meeting Room C

Regular Meeting Minutes

Will Hitchcock called the meeting to order at 7pm.

Roll Call was taken.

William Hitchcock (2 - Forste-Grupp), Joy Baxter (3 - McClosky), Victor Barsky (5 - Cavender), David Roberts (6 - Holmes), Colette Bannon (7 - Quinn), Peter Puglionesi (8 - Hart), Hank Schwab (9 - McCollum), Mia Badman (Township Liaison), Kevin McClosky (Commission Liason), Peter Hickman (Parks & Rec), Guests: Liz Robinson, Alice Grunt, Joe Mercatantey, Todd Hall

Meeting Minutes - Review/Approval – April 2026 minutes approved

Monthly Update from Mia Badman, Township Manager

Composting update: We looked at June 6, June is incredibly busy, we could try to do the compost event along with the clothing drive on June 13. We will need some volunteers to help for both events. Helpsy is from 9-11, maybe we need to extend this for composting kick-off. Should we do them in parallel or one after the other? Probably we should do them concurrently so people don't have to make 2 trips. Victor, David, Collette, Mia, Peter P, possibly Joy, and some others may be available. Mia will send out an email looking for volunteer support. Probably going to need support 8-12. Still tentative, the date will be announced in the publication.

Motion to move public comment up in the agenda, Will second, approved unanimously

Public Comment

Joe Mercatantey - Interested to learn about lawn electrification initiatives. Joy explained that a subcommittee has been formed, that Lower Merion recently started a phase-out of gas-powered leaf blowers, and we are looking at this as well for both township usage and in the township overall. We are introducing the concept and providing information to the commissioners and exploring costs.

Joe is interested in seeing the data and wondered if we were looking at things. He is concerned that this may not be the right opportunity and could just take options away from residents.

Joy explained that we've been looking at different levels of use: consumer, prosumer, and continuous use. Comparing options and economics for these levels. There is a "Quiet, Clean Haverford" website where some of the information can be found, but this website is not affiliated with the EAC. Particulate Matter is an air quality issue in our area and the two-stroke engines disproportionally contribute to the problem. Noise pollution as well. Those are the two main impacts that EAC is looking at.

Joe asked if a ban were to be proposed, what procedural steps would be involved.

Joy explained that the Environmental Committee of the commissioners would look at it first, and then it would be presented at a meeting. This would be noticed on the commissioner's agenda.

Victor explained that he recently switched to electric leaf blower and he thinks it's great, but he can appreciate that a single battery might not work for multiple properties.

Joy explained that there are fast-charging and mobile charging options available.

Joe said that we should consider the environmental impacts of the lithium in the batteries, and said that any ban would be taking away consumer's choice.

Joy explained that there are life-cycle assessments of the options which would include impacts related to the lithium batteries. This is established technology that has been demonstrated. Ultimately, the choice will be up to the commissioners.

Mia explained that the EAC will of course propose the most environmentally-friendly initiatives to the board, but the board will consider all options. Mia believes there would be a public hearing about this.

Priority for Action

Presentation from Liz Robinson on supporting expansion of Community Choice Aggregation to first-class townships in PA beyond Boroughs.

This is a program that would permit the local government to aggregate all of its customers (residents and small businesses), pool all of that load, and then go into the marketplace and acquire power on your behalf. The township can decide what the mix is. The group she is work together on this believes that Boroughs already have this authority under the borough code. They have 8 so far that have signed an MOU to explore the opportunity together. Savings through CCAs have ranged between 2-15%. There is currently an issue with data sharing and confidentiality with the utilities, and we have petitioned that PUC ruling and it will probably take another year. In the meantime they are pursuing legislative options. Liz asked if you would be willing to recommend to the commissioners a resolution supporting this initiative. The legislation would allow boroughs, townships to participate while protecting low-income customers.

Victor asked if he would be forced to join the CCA? He already is making his own choice using the marketplace.

Liz explained that this would only loop in "default" customers that have not made a choice. The township (or hopefully townships) would likely hire an "administrator" to oversee the selection and mixing. The goal is cleaner, more affordable power. They issue an RFP, and if there is a generator that can satisfy those terms, then they engage. If there is not a better deal, then they don't engage. NJ has had this for about 3 years, not sure of the mix, but they have saved 15%.

Peter P: There are boroughs with utilities, but not townships. Is this structured like that?

Liz: No, this is not a utility. And there are caps in place to protect existing borough utilities.

David: Why are net metering customers excluded? How would this work with solar?

Liz: These customers have access to full retain rate. The CCA agreement only covers the generation portion of the bill. Only the utility can offset the distribution, so if you have net metering, it makes more sense financially to stay with your current setup. The objective is to give municipalities more leverage to meet their sustainability goals. And the municipalities could theoretically put out an RFP for a solar farm to be built. Utilities are constrained as to when they can and cannot enter terms, where CCAs are not.

Peter P. Would this allow for municipalities to require power from a specific, local solar farm?
Liz: Yes

Will: what percentage of the base is default?
Liz: For residential, it's about 70%. We are asking that you recommend a resolution to the commissioners that this is a good idea and should be studied.

Joy: Motion to recommend that the board signs a resolution to recommend that the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors (PSATS) formally support and advocate for the enactment of the Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) Act.
Peter P: Second
Approved with one abstention

Review of Earth Day and Solar Celebration
Numbers were low but probably mostly due to the weather. Bailey Park worked out better than we thought. Other than the solar stuff everything went pretty well. It is probably possible to do this at the Township Building, but parking could be an issue. The new park (Brookline Park?) might be good for next year. Bailey Park was really good for the little kids, as it's fenced in. We should have some food and music component. There is enough annual work to be done that we could do it at Bailey Park every year. This probably wasn't the best test of this location because the weather was so bad. Ideas for next year activities: plant exchange, plant giveaways, solar car races, educational components. It also felt a little short given the amount of time for set-up and takedown. Maybe 3 hours would be better.

EV Parking Ordinance discussion
David went through some of the other township ordinances and is looking for some clarification on what we're trying to accomplish. We are trying to set rules for people charging their EVs without driveways or dedicated parking. And also that new commercial or multi-apartment development must consider charging infrastructure. e.g. 220V outlet in all new garages. Sidewalk charging and development standards.

Calendar of EAC or Related Workshops/Events/Outreach
May 7th 6-7:30pm Watershed and Rain Barrel Workshop [CREC]
May 14th 7pm: Backyard Composting Workshop [virtual]
May 21th 7pm: Heat Pump 101 [virtual]
June 6th 9am-1pm: Composting Kick-off: Supply distribution?
June 12th 9-11am: Helpsy Clothing Drive, Township Building
Aug 12th 7pm: Haverford Recycling Workshop [CREC]
(Summer or Fall) Plant based food for the Climate [virtual]
September 23rd 6-7:30pm Watershed and Rain Barell Workshop [CREC]
October 3rd Haverford Township Day
October 8th 7pm: Backyard Composting Workshop [virtual]
October 16th 7pm Heat Pump 101 [virtual] (tentative)
(Fall Recycling in Haverford Workshop, Haverford Adult School)

Subcommittee Updates
Social Media & Outreach Subcommittee – JB, MR
Climate Action Subcommittee – JB, NS, PP, WH, DR

Expand Residential Tree Canopy – NS, PP, JB, CB, Peter H. Felicia
Ordinance Subcommittee – JB, WH, CB, NS, DR, PP
Recycling and Composting Subcommittee – JB, MR, HS
Storm Water & Rain Garden Subcommittee - WH, PP, JB
HHS Liaison on Environmental Club Collaboration
Shade Tree Commission Updates
Volunteer Opportunities: Hav-a-Rain Garden volunteers to assess, design, order and supervise builds., Solarize Delco: Volunteers needed to screen calls/ online support.

Meeting adjourned 8:30 pm.