



DOYLESTOWN TOWNSHIP MEETING MINUTES ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL (EAC)

DATE:	SEPT 8, 2026	TIME:	7:00 PM	LOCATION:	Doylestown TWP Building
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ATTENDEE

- Chad Clem, EAC Chair
- Marcello Mangano, Vice Chair
- Michele Engelbert, Secretary
- Erik Silldorff
- Erich Neal
- Gianina Nixon
- Dan Wood (BOS Liaison)
- Andrea Mergner (TWP)
- Doug Learn (Resident, here to express concerns about deer)
- Noel Pelletier (Resident, here to express concerns about deer)
- Rich Johnson (Resident, here to express concerns about deer)

EAC MEETING MINUTES

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Upon motion by Erik, seconded by Michele, the July 14, 2026 minutes, unanimously approved.

- **Budget Review**
 - Motion to approve budget by Erich, seconded by Marcello.
 - Sedge Installation - Chess Table Area Central Park - Game Grove
 - Motion to approve spend of up to \$400 requested for sedge flats to try them out by Chad, seconded by Gianina.
 - EAC would install the flats.
 - Erich N. to research an alternative idea.
 - Erich suggested leaving the leaf litter, which Chris M. tried last year but they blew/washed away. Erich suggested a low fence to act as a barrier to keep the leaves. Or a rock barrier to divert the water.
- **2026 EAC & Municipal Sustainability Conference**
 - WeConservePA - October 24, 2026, Whitemarsh, PA
 - Erich N. is interested in attending, we will decide attendees in next month's EAC meeting.
- **Hart Tract Rezoning**
 - Chad asked Dan whether the EAC could have been involved in the decision-making process and whether the EAC could be involved in future development discussions. Dan shared that development plans have not yet been created.
 - The EAC could review the development plans once available and provide recommendations.
 - The EAC could also submit a letter to the Planning Commission outlining its recommendations.

- **Deer Management**

- The EAC is considering conducting a deer survey to establish a baseline population. The EAC has discussed in the past concerns related to environmental damage to native vegetation, tick-borne diseases, and deer-related traffic accidents.
- Several residents expressed concern about the growing deer population and increasing damage to residential vegetation and gardens:
 - A Pebble Woods resident (Doug) shared that deer, including new fawns, are eating vegetation throughout the neighborhood despite residents spending money each year on deterrents. The resident referenced Solebury's deer management/culling efforts with the USDA and encouraged the Township to take steps to address the issue.
 - A second resident shared that the deer population has increased significantly since moving to the area and that deer regularly damage vegetation on his property.
 - A third resident noted that deer pressure has become increasingly severe, with deer eating plants they had not previously targeted, and expressed concern that the population is higher than in prior years.
- Dan suggested requesting data from the Police Department on deer-related traffic incidents.
- Erik noted that some residents may have concerns about deer culling and that it will be important to clearly understand and communicate the potential benefits of any management approach.
- A deer survey could provide a baseline population estimate; however, there is currently a waitlist for the survey.
- Given the high cost of deer management efforts, the EAC could develop a recommendation for consideration by the Board of Supervisors since the EAC budget will not support deer management costs.
- A resident asked whether the EAC has contacted the Pennsylvania Game Commission. The EAC has not yet done so.
- Erik S. has reached out to Dr. Kelly but has not yet received a response.
- Marcello and Andrea offered to assist Erik S. with next steps.
- Residents encouraged the EAC to develop a plan for addressing deer management.
- A Deer Management Subcommittee was formed. Erik S. and Marcello will serve on the subcommittee, with Doug L. also involved.

- **Farmers Market Tabling with Borough EAC- August**

- Michele attended alongside Grant A. (Borough EAC) and Grant R. (Sustainability Coordinator)

- **EAC Summit - Borough EAC leading - February 2027**

- Michele is meeting with Grant R. in September to discuss planning
- EAC suggested adding Deer Management to agenda, inviting Solebury

- **Electrifying Lawn Equipment**

- Subcommittee (Michele, Heidi, Marcello) met to discuss ideas for promoting the increase in use of electric lawn equipment and reduce reliance on gas-powered equipment, such as leaf blowers. Subcommittee will continue research.
- Andrea will update Chris that the EAC is interested in learning more about what equipment he uses

- **Solar Project Update**

- Board has received the study and was mentioned at the Budget meeting

- PA Solar Center - focus on CRC and not the ground mount
- **Floating Island Improvement Project - Grant Awarded**
 - Erich installed five new islands, bringing total to six, will put plants on in the spring, purchasing through Kind Earth growers
- **Joint EAC Film/Speaker - Fall 2026**
 - Erich will look into documentary options with a Q&A option
- **Subcommittee for street light pollution**
 - Ready to present new development ordinance to Planning Committee
- **Native Demo Garden Update**
 - Successful volunteer day in August
 - Last workday for the year is November
 - Ready to continue installing in the newly expanded area
 - Motion to approve spend of up to \$1,000 requested for seeds, plugs, and woody material by Chad, seconded by Marcello.
- **Native Garden Guidance Update**
 - Gianina asked if lawn care/turf management comes up in conversations with residents, to see if conversations around pesticides are happening. Marcello said not really.
- **Composting & Fall Leaf Mgt**
 - Gianina asked Andrea to put out education around "Leave the Leaves" that has been published in the past.
- **Newsletter & Enews Articles**
 - Next edition is Fall
 - Leave the Leaves
 - Promote Leaf & Recycling Center
 - Alpha-gal allergy (ticks)
- **Neshaminy Collaborative**
 - Karen Ogden is co-chairing, gathering members of EACs
- **EAC Native Plant Sale - Peace Valley Oct 10**
 - Cancelled for this year, no nursery to provide plants
- **Birdtown Update (see September 2026 Update below)**
- **Adjournment**

Next Meeting Oct 13, 2026

Upon motion by Gianina, seconded by Marcello, this meeting was adjourned.

BIRD TOWN UPDATE:

Doylestown Township Bird Town Report

September 2026

A. Updates for the Summer

1. Purple Martins:

Monitoring for the Purple Martins has ended as they head south for the Winter
 We managed the structure and addressed tree swallows using the condo by adding
 2 additional nesting boxes 25 feet from the structure East and West– both tree

swallows and bluebirds used these successfully

2 visits by purple martins were observed

John and I are cleaning out and setting up storage for the individual gourds with Chris Mason on Thursday, 9/10 @ 4 PM at Central Park with Karin, who did the monitoring – she leads our bird walks, too!

2. Chimney Swift Tower

watching for swifts using it as they migrate

I'm checking with Game Commission for when to paint it

3. Next Bird Walk at Nemonds starting on Sunday, 9/13 at 8:30 behind the Mohs Surgery Center – Bucks County Birders is also getting the word out. Over 2.9 million birds migrated over Bucks on Friday, Sept. 4, alone via BirdCast. I hope to see you there.

4. World Migratory Bird Day Event – I'll be presenting about Bird Town and how to create a bird-friendly yard at Peace Valley Nature Center for a 2 day event weekend of Oct. 10-11. I've added the flyer as well. They are also retrofitting their windows to address bird window collision – just approved by the County!

5. Bird Safe Doylestown – I'm a driver for injured birds on Tuesdays. Some of the windows are also being considered for retrofits on the Justice Center where there have been many bird window strikes. Jeanne Ludlow, one of our Bird Town Committee members, has also been helping with this effort. If you'd like more info, please let me know. This program is modeled after the Bird Safe Philly Program and run by Bucks Co. Birders.

6. Addressing Cats – Jeanne Ludlow is distributing brochure to local vets

7. Social media posts about reducing lighting during migration and Chimney Swifts

B. Plans

- Check in on YMCA garden for maintenance
- Articles about new structures
- NestWatch Data entry