Environmental Advisory Council Meeting
Approved Minutes September 9, 2026
Held in East Fallowfield Township Building

Attendees: John Neilson, Jeanne Berlin, Terri Dickinson, Lauri Hyers, Paul Brenner, Charles Reed, Al Wright

Absent: Tanner Burns, Roger Mustalish, Robert Deist, Katja DiRado

Meeting called to order at 6:30 by JN

1. JN made motion to approve April 2026 minutes. JB seconded. Approved.
2. Data Center discussion: CR shared that the Planning Commission is waiting on the township's solicitor for the revised draft. Once received it will go before the EF Planning Commission (waiting 2 weeks), then to the Chester County Planning Commission, then to East Fallowfield Board of Supervisors. AW brought up the possibility of a curative amendment. JN will send the best email addresses of EAC members to AW, so that we can be kept in the loop as we move forward.
3. Park Pond: The next Pond Watch will be September 19, with the possibility of one additional October date. The last measurements showed dissolved oxygen at almost normal levels. When the levels dropped drastically over the summer, approximately 200 fish were lost. July has historically showed low oxygen levels since 2015, when Pond Watch started recording levels. Despite recent rain events the water level is down. TD reported that the company Solitude will be installing a pond aeration system on September 18, as well as treating the pond with 'muck eraser'. Money for pond maintenance will be requested in the 2027 township budget. This will be used for further repairs, including stabilizing fabric on the pond's edge, invasive removal and native plants. TD would like to form a group dedicated to pond maintenance, comprised of volunteers from P&R and EAC.
4. Managed Meadows: An ordinance change would be needed to allow native plants to grow more than 12" tall, for pollinator/wildflower gardens. Options were discussed.
5. Meadow Conversion: The 1-acre Lawn to Meadow Conversion in East Fallowfield Park will soon begin. DCNR will do the initial drill seeding, after the beds are prepared. JN reported that they will be applying the first herbicide treatment next week and planting rye as a cover crop. Adjacent neighbors in Branford Village are being notified of the treatment and the Road Crew will be asked to avoid the area. The township (volunteers) will be responsible for weeding out invasives and cutting once a year, after the meadow is established. LH suggested a voluntary township registry of residents that would like to a similar conversion on their own properties. This record might be good to have in case of neighbors' complaints. It would be recommended, but not required.
6. Old Business: JN would like to continue native tree planting in the park, under P&R's advisement.
7. New Business: AW brought up the condition of the park road that leads to the lower parking lot. JB shared that it was deliberately not paved during the initial park development because it would have required additional water drainage management. Perhaps a semipermeable surface might be a solution? TD shared that November 14 will be the Fall Cleanup at the Park, beginning at 9am. This Saturday will be 'Touch-a-Truck' at the park, from 10 to 1 and will include raffles. JN said that EAC will have a $5000 line item in the proposed township 2027 budget.

PB motioned to adjourn. JN seconded.
Meeting adjourned at 8:05