Maidencreek Township Environmental Advisory Council
July 7, 2026
6:00 PM

Attending: Dawn Geschwindt, Drew Oberholtzer, Deanne Weber, Connie Cammarano, Lauren Moran. Lin Weber

Guests: Diane Hollenbach, Marsha Ney, Brooke Leister

Deanne Weber called the regular meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

Motion was made by DO to approve the July Regular Meeting Agenda. Seconded by CC.
Motion was made by CC to approve the June Meeting Minutes. Seconded by DO.

PUBLIC COMMENT - AGENDA ITEMS

None

REPORTS - OLD BUSINESS

MTEAC By-Laws

By-Laws were reviewed and a motion was made by LM to approve. Seconded by DO. Deanne Weber, Connie Cammarano, Lin Weber, Drew Oberholtzer, Lauren Moran were sworn in as Council members by Diane Hollenbach.

MTEAC Mission Statement

The Mission Statement was read and a motion was made by DO to approve. Seconded by CC.

Social Media Presence

Drew mentioned that he is waiting on access so that he is able to create a Facebook Page for the MTEAC. He is working with Dawn and they both will be administrators on the page. The MTEAC will create informative posts here and at times share them on the Maidencreek Township Page.

Grants

Brooke Leister, a representative from Berks Nature, attended the meeting and provided information on grant opportunities through Berks Nature as well as the ATCCC (Appalachian Trail Community Conservation Collaborative).

The grant with Berks Nature is for $3000 and may be applied toward the writing of an ordinance. The Council felt that this may be an opportunity to write an ordinance regarding Data Centers in our community. The Board of Supervisors is familiar with a draft ordinance written for Greenwich Township that could possibly be used as a guideline, as well as recommendations from the Berks County Planning Commission. MTEAC members will review the draft, make comments and suggestions to be discussed at our August meeting.

It was also mentioned that there is a group named Berks Against Data Centers holding a meeting in the Oley Fire Co on July 13, 2026, 7 PM

Another grant opportunity , through the ATCCC, is one for possibly $15,000 that Council discussed could be used to plant the Upper Loop area of the Maidencreek Community Park with plants (including native flowers and shrubs), where invasive plants were removed. The MTEAC will meet with the Maidencreek Township Parks and Recreation Committee to review plans prepared in 2025 by Berks Nature and discuss ideas and steps forward.

Other potential grant opportunities may be found at Berks County Planning Commission, Schuylkill Highlands, and the Berks Community Foundation. A timeline (with deadlines) of known grant opportunities will be prepared.

Events

- Food Truck Fridays - Tables were set up at several FTF with a focus toward native flowers and native trees. We had people signing up as potential volunteers for future events as well as making their selections of favorite flowers and checking boxes of the environmental activities they already actively do, such as recycling, mowing less frequently. We plan to participate in future FTF or ask other conservation minded agencies to set up tables and share information.
- Berks Nature Municipal Luncheon - attended by Lin, Connie, Deanne - very informative regarding data centers
- Family Fun Day - tabling manned by Dawn, Drew, Lin, Deanne - provided information and instructions on how to make mosquito buckets. Gave away 10 buckets with supplies donated by neighbors, Boyers, Esbenshades, and Weaver's Ace Hardware. Thank you!

REPORTS - NEW BUSINESS

FMR Joint Comprehensive Plan (Fleetwood/Maidencreek/Richmond)

Diane Hollenbach presented the Council members with the FMR Joint Comprehensive Plan and asked for review and feedback. After a cursory review we all felt it was well written and informative and will review more thoroughly and suggest our thoughts on interest areas/objectives for going forward. The FMR Comprehensive Plan is a guideline to then develop specific action into the SALDO and/or Zoning Ordinance.

MTEAC Logo

It was suggested that a logo for the Council could possibly be designed by High School Seniors, or Berks Career and Technology students, or possibly Kutztown University students as a project. We have a logo depicting a Blue Heron, land, and water that can be used as a starting point.

Upcoming Events

- Food Truck Fridays - It was discussed that tabling at upcoming Food Truck Friday events would be a good activity to continue. Lauren suggested that perhaps we provide information on Council members such as who we are and what we hope to do. We can

include our mission statement, banner, possibly the logo, and Diane suggested a tri-fold promotional flyer. We are in discussions with other groups tabling at some events including Berks Nature, Master Watershed Stewards, and Berks Agricultural Resource.

- Berks Fiddle Fest - September 20th - To be held at Fleetwood Park, we plan to set up tabling with information and activities for participation
- Online Stormwater Class - Dianne to provide information
- Community Craft and Flea Market - October 3rd - Rockland Roots and Wildcraft Landscape to setup displays
- WeConservePA Conference, Saturday, October 24, 2026

PUBLIC COMMENT - NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by DO and seconded by CC. The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lauren Moran
MTEAC Secretary