

HELLAM TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
January 12, 2025
5:00 PM
Hellam Township Building

Members Present: Marie Arcuri, Carolyn Fetrow, Scott Hursh, Judith Mueller, Bill Zeigler, Audrey Russin (Advisor to EAC).

BOS Rep: Mike Shillott

Guests: Keith Williams, Vice President for Education Engagement with the Lancaster Conservancy; Wade Smith, landscape designer from Stauffers.

New Business:

- Vote for officers: Unanimous support for Carolyn to serve as Chair, Adrienne as co-chair, and Judith as Secretary,
- BOS meeting this Thursday: vote for new BOS member and Zoning Hearing Board membership.
- Carolyn asks that all members think of 3 goals for 2026. Seeking to create a vision
- Judith will get updated Strategic Plan to EAC and BOS before next meeting.
- Keith Williams: presented on the Lancaster Conservancy's work with emphasis on the four preserves in Hellam Township. He spoke of the "long game" of restoring and maintaining habitat in their preserves, including a 20-acre wetland restoration. The Conservancy's goals (conserving wildlife habitat, safeguarding drinking water and managing stormwater, reducing air pollution, increasing quality of life for our community, educating the public, etc.) harmonize well with the mission and goals of the EAC, and we foresee collaborations in the future.
 - A few preliminary ideas for collaboration:
 - A Lancaster Conservancy table at our Pollinator Festival in June
 - EAC participation in the Community Wildlife Habitat event (at Ingrid Graham Historic Hellam Preserve) training landowners how to do native landscaping on their land.
 - A special event for Hellam Township residents at the Graham Preserve.
 - EAC promotion of other events in LC preserves in the township.

In sum: making this connection with Keith Williams is energizing for the EAC, whose members appreciate the opportunity to further our educational and conservation mission in collaboration with the Lancaster Conservancy.

- Community outreach: The conversation with Keith Williams revived the idea of inviting Nate Reidy from White Clover Farm to speak with the EAC about effective community outreach.
- Stauffers Event: Wade Smith from Stauffers came to discuss the event EAC will participate in there on February 28. We talked a lot about plants and ways Stauffers might continue to promote native plants. A planning meeting is scheduled for 10 :00 AM on January 21 at Stauffers.
- Scott passed out an AI-derived collection of the sections of the current ordinance relevant to our planned efforts to revise the weed and landscape requirements to be more tolerant of best practices for healthy habitats. The landscaping ordinance is out of date. This collection is a great step forward toward making a revision possible.

Action Items:

- *Judith will update and circulate the EAC Strategic Plan well before the next meeting.*
- *Everyone: think of 3 goals for the year.*