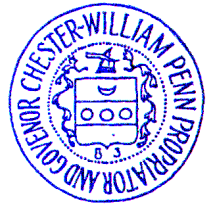




THE COUNTY OF CHESTER



COMMISSIONERS
Josh Maxwell
Marian D. Moskowitz
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Matthew J. Edmond, AICP
Executive Director

PLANNING COMMISSION
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Environmental and Energy Advisory Board
Government Services Center Room 351E/Zoom

July 23, 2025
Hybrid meeting

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT IN PERSON: Paul Spiegel, Chair; Carol DeWolf, Vice-Chair; Matthew Edmond, Secretary; Kelsey Boyd; Seung Ah Byun; Ann Colby-Cummings; Steve Krug; George Martynick; Britnee Sanseverino; Sarah Sharp; Dave Stauffer.

MEMBERS PRESENT VIA ZOOM: Mark Connolly; Madhu Gurthy; Marcus Kohl; Richard Moseley; Christian Strohmaier; Kevin Warren; Wyatt Williams.

OTHERS PRESENT IN PERSON: Bronwen Barnett; Rachael Griffith; Gene Huller; Kate Hutelmyer; Carol J. Stauffer; Sally Warren; Nina Weisblatt.

OTHERS PRESENT VIA ZOOM: Jaxon Dierker; Jonathan Meyers; Nathaniel Smith, Ryan Mawhinney.

CALL TO ORDER:

The Environmental and Energy Advisory Board meeting, held in the Government Services Center in Room 171 and via Zoom video/audio on Wednesday, April 23, 2025, was called to order at 2:33 P.M. by Chair, Paul Spiegel.

Approval of April 23, 2025, Minutes:

A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE APRIL 23, 2025, MEETING WAS MADE BY MR. KRUG, SECONDED BY MS. COLBY-CUMMINGS, AND PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE BOARD. MOTION CARRIED.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Climate Action Plan Update: Ms. Griffith facilitated a discussion and interactive survey for board members to review priorities for the upcoming revision and update of the five-year Climate Action Plan that was originally adopted in late 2021. The revised plan is planned to begin in the fourth quarter of 2025 and be proposed for adoption in late 2026.

Subcommittee Reports

Environmental Subcommittee: Ms. Boyd reported Natural Lands just closed on a 10.5 acre easement in East Bradford Township. They also updated their statewide stewardship handbook.

Ms. Colby-Cummings reported on EAC support efforts she has been leading that include developing a database of all county-wide EACs, which she is hoping to complete by Labor Day. Responses to her EAC outreach efforts have been enthusiastic. She has been in touch with We Conserve PA regarding topics for their fall conference for EACs in Southeast PA.

Clean Energy Subcommittee:

Mr. Warren reported they are still working on a Agrivoltaics Event in the Spring of 2026. Members of the subcommittee are also participating with staff in the National Renewable Energy Laboratory's (NREL) - Energy to Communities peer learning cohort on "Navigating Electricity Load Growth and Associated Utility Grid Impacts".

Mr. Krug asked Mr. Connolly to summarize progress on the draft County Energy Strategy Plan. Mr. Connolly cited five overarching principles and provided an overview of the proposed structure of the document. Discussion ensued on whether the plan would be a stand-alone document or incorporated into another county plan (Climate Action Plan, Hazard Mitigation Plan, etc.) The group discussed the need to identify and engage stakeholders to solicit their comments on the plan.

UPDATES AND COMMENTS:

Planning Commission Director's Report - Mr. Edmond reiterated his praise for the successful Sustainability Summit & Expo held in May 2025 at West Chester University with over 200 attendees and 40 vendors. The Open Space Accelerator pilot is underway as a stewardship project for Coventry Woods Preserve in North Coventry Township. The Commissioner's have approved the purchase of the Philadelphia and Thorndale rail corridor from PennDOT for the development of the Chester Valley Trail. Mr. Edmond mentioned the partnering with the Chesco Economic Development Council (CCEDC) in the NREL Peer Learning Cohort (detailed above).

Work is underway to complete a county application for \$2 million in carbon reduction transportation funds from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA).

Sustainability Director's Report - Ms. Griffith said a pilot program is underway that would invite municipalities, school districts, public universities, and municipal authorities, to join the Sustainable Energy Partnership of Southeast PA (Chester, Bucks, Delaware, Montgomery counties), that purchases electricity as a group from renewable sources. Ms. Griffith mentioned the development of a new planning commission e-Tool for municipalities that provides examples for ways municipalities can use open space funds.

Facilities Report - Mr. Martynick noted that recently there were four days straight of peak energy demand forecasted, and his team is determining how to reduce electricity use on those peak days. He added a plan to accelerate the EV charger installations at county facilities, particularly in areas underserved by EV charging in the county. The new pollinator garden at the Justice Center in West Chester has been well received and he hopes to continue on this trajectory with other gardens at county facilities in the future.

Updates from the Board: There were no further updates from the board.

Public Comments: There were no public comments.

The next quarterly meeting will be on October 22, 2025.

ADJOURNMENT

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, A MOTION TO ADJOURN WAS MADE AT 4:35 PM. BY MR. KRUG AND SECONDED BY MR. MARTYNICK, AND PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE BOARD.

Respectfully submitted,



Matthew J. Edmond, Secretary

MJE/RG/saw