

**WHITEMARSH TOWNSHIP  
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD  
MEETING AGENDA**

**Monday, July 17, 2023 (Hybrid Meeting) - 7:00 P.M.**  
**Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88934534966>**  
**Meeting ID: 889 3453 4966**

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**MEMBERS:**

LITZINGER-DRAYTON    GEASLAND    HARRIS    TONE    SHREERO    HERITAGE  
 KABNICK

**LIAISONS:**

MELLOR, Staff    ZRILLO, Staff    TURENNE, BOS

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

**2. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

a. *New Staff liaison—Samantha Zrillo, Township Planner.*

Ms. Shreero introduced Ms. Zrillo to the Board. Ms. Zrillo gave a brief background of her professional experience—Environmental Studies, B.S., City and Regional Planning, M.S., experience as a lead field technician for the National Ecological Observatory Network, and internships with Montgomery County Planning Commission, Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission, and the Pennsylvania Environmental Council.

Ms. Shreero announced that the single use plastic bag ban passed during the Board of Supervisors meeting on July 13, 2023. There was one modification to the ordinance that allows similar language to the required “Carry-Out Bag Charge” to be printed on receipts. The ordinance will go into effect mid-October 2023.

**3. OLD BUSINESS**

a. *Green recognition awards*

Ms. Shreero informed the Board that a couple of people will be visiting Germantown Academy this week. They are interested in applying for the Green Recognition Award but would like help with the application process. The application will likely be submitted prior to the September meeting.

Ms. Kabnick asked how the Board is going to renew awards that still align with green practices. Ms. Harris mentioned that there was talk about putting a year on the sticker. Ms. Shreero mentioned that there will need to be organization for renewal process; perhaps one day per year focused on renewal. Ms. Harris said she will design the sticker and create an excel spreadsheet with the organizations holding awards.

b. *Naturalized spaces*

Ms. Shreero asked Ms. Zrillo if Redtail gave updates on their projects. Ms. Zrillo showed the before/after photos from Koontz Park, Mathers Mill, and McCarthy Basin. Ms. Kabnick asked if there was any information on the number of hours spent on each project and how much of the contract has been used. Ms. Zrillo replied that she was unsure but would reach out to the necessary individuals to gather that information. Ms. Harris added to find out if Redtail believes they are adequately managing invasives or if they are experiencing difficulties.

c. *PSA update*

Ms. Shreero mentioned that the completed PSAs are now on Whitemarsh Township's YouTube channel and asked about the status of the outstanding video. Ms. Harris said that she is almost finished with the outstanding video and it will be done soon.

Ms. Shreero said that the Board needs to talk about how to advertise the PSAs. Examples included: Whitemarsh TV, YouTube, Facebook, and Instagram. Ms. Kabnick said there are limitations on Instagram, so the PSAs are not likely to be posted there. Ms. Kabnick recommended cycling them through the newsletters. Ms. Shreero asked Ms. Zrillo to check with Mr. McAnally about who publishes the newsletter and mentioned that the EAB could write a couple of sentences for the newsletter. Ms. Zrillo said she would investigate it.

#### **4. NEW BUSINESS**

a. *Single Use Plastic Ban—Next Steps*

Ms. Shreero stated again that the plastic bag ban will be going into effect mid-October and that newsletters and flyers need to go out. Ms. Harris said that sample flyers need to be created for businesses. Ms. Kabnick noted that the sign should be a template so businesses can increase the charge per bag if desired. Ms. Shreero mentioned that once the language for the flyer is created, it should be sent to Ms. Zrillo for review, and then to Mr. Brown to create the graphic template to be distributed for businesses. Ms. Shreero asked the Board if a quick announcement about the ban should go out now and more detailed information should follow. Ms. Harris mentioned that the information should have the Whitemarsh and EAB logo. Ms. Shreero said that she will put information together for the announcements. The "quick hit" information should be drafted by the end of the week. Ms. Shreero prioritized the next steps, saying the poster is priority, then the website. Ms. Zrillo said she will check in with Mr. McAnally about posting to the website.

Ms. Harris recommended a bag bank for those who are unable to afford to purchase a reusable bag. The Board discussed possible ideas, such as pop-up events, maintaining boxes at each business location, and having a permanent box at public buildings such as the library and Township building. Ms. Heritage said that the Girl Scouts are willing to help, but their first meeting is in September. Ms. Harris recommended the Girl Scouts help maintain the donation boxes by doing pop-up events, such as the Back-to-School night at Whitemarsh Elementary school where the girls can both collect bags and inform parents about the ordinance and why it's happening. Ms. Turenne recommended doing a similar

event at the tree giveaway day. The Board concluded that logistics for the bag drive need to be sorted out.

b. *Education initiatives*

Ms. Shreero stated that the Board should create and maintain an educational initiative schedule to have timely events in the future. It was agreed that the Board should contemplate specific initiatives and be ready to discuss them during September's meeting. Ms. Harris mentioned that the article for *Whitemarsh Living* needs to be drafted prior to September's meeting and the topic should be decided by mid-August. Ms. Zrillo said she will confirm if the plastic bag ordinance will be featured as a stand-alone segment or if it is considered the EAB's allotted entry.

c. *Redtail Update*

This was covered earlier in the meeting.

**5. APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES**

a. May 15, 2023

Motion by Ms. Kabnick; seconded by Mr. Geasland. Motion passed 5-0.

**6. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**7. BOARD COMMENTS**

Ms. Harris mentioned the train derailment that occurred in Whitemarsh Township and asked if the EAB should review the emergency management procedures from an environmental lens. The Board discussed if the EAB had any standing in the process. Ms. Harris said it would just be providing advice to the Board of Supervisors. Ms. Harris then stated that emergency contact numbers could be outdated. Ms. Shreero agreed that in her professional career, she has seen outdated numbers in current plans for other municipalities.

**8. Next Meeting Date:** September 18, 2023

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn from Ms. Kabnick, seconded by Mr. Geasland. Motion passed unanimously at 8:10 PM.