

**WHITEMARSH TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD
REORGANIZATION MEETING AGENDA**

Wednesday, January 21, 2026 (Hybrid Meeting) – 6:30 P.M.

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84978086297>

Meeting ID: 849 7808 6297

MEMBERS:

___ DEBORAH SHREERO ___ DEBRA HARRIS ___ GORDON GEASLAND

___ KAREN KABNICK ___ VICTOR LOW ___ VACANT ___ VACANT

LIAISONS:

___ SAMANTHA ZRILLO, STAFF ___ PATRICE TURENNE, BOS

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. ELECTION OF CHAIR**
- 3. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR**
- 4. ANNOUNCEMENTS**
- 5. APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES**
 - a. September 30, 2025
 - b. December 1, 2025
- 6. OLD BUSINESS**
 - a. *Redtail Update*
 - b. *"Better Yards, Better Whitemarsh, Better Planet" Property Recognition Program*
- 7. NEW BUSINESS**
- 8. PUBLIC COMMENTS**
- 9. BOARD COMMENTS**
- 10. Next Meeting Date: *March 16, 2026***
- 11. ADJOURNMENT**

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION INFORMATION

1. Public meetings of the EAB shall follow a prescribed agenda, which will be available to the general public two days preceding the meeting.
2. The EAB will entertain Public Comment at the end of each specific action items during the meeting, at the discretion of the Chair. Individuals must advise the Chair of their desire to offer such comment.
3. A Public Comment period will be provided at the conclusion of a meeting for input on any subject.
4. The Board Chair shall preside over Public Comments and may within their discretion:
 - a. Recognize individuals wishing to offer comment.
 - b. Require identification of such persons.
 - c. Allocate total available Public Comment time among all individuals wishing to comment.
 - d. Allocate up to a five (5) minute maximum for each individual to offer Public Comment at a meeting.
 - e. Rule out of order scandalous, impertinent and redundant comment or any comment the discernible purpose of which is to disrupt or prevent the conduct of the business of the meeting including the questioning of, or polling of, or debating with, individual members of the Board.

**WHITEMARSH TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES**

Tuesday, September 30, 2025 (Hybrid Meeting) – 6:30 P.M.

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88646237656>

Meeting ID: 886 4623 7656

MEMBERS:

DEBORAH SHREERO (Chair) DEBRA HARRIS (Vice-Chair) GORDON GEASLAND

KAREN KABNICK VICTOR LOW VACANT VACANT

LIAISONS:

SAMANTHA ZRILLO, STAFF PATRICE TURENNE, BOS

1. CALL TO ORDER Chair Shreero called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM.

2. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Zrillo said that this meeting was advertised in the *Times Herald* on Thursday, September 11, 2025, in accordance with legal advertisement requirements.

A member of the Board spoke about a local organization, Green Conshy. They are a resident driven organization that does environmental education projects. The Board should consider reaching out to them in the future.

3. APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES

a. July 21, 2025

Ms. Shreero said that the meeting minutes should be changed to say the *Whitemarsh Living* article is about leaves, not lightning bugs.

Ms. Harris made a motion to approve the July 21, 2025 meeting minutes after the change is made. Mr. Geasland seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Zrillo said that the May 19, 2025 minutes will be on the next agenda.

4. OLD BUSINESS

a. "Better Yards, Better Whitemarsh, Better Planet" Property Recognition Program

i. Questionnaire format

Ms. Zrillo presented two different types of layouts for the questionnaire. One was a google form, the other was a PDF. After a general discussion, the Board decided to go forward with the google form.

ii. Website layout

Ms. Zrillo showed the Board the draft layout of the website and said she would continue working on it. She hopes to have it complete to show the Board of Supervisors at the next Workshop meeting.

iii. *Points Required*

After a general discussion, it was decided that residents should score a 65% or higher on the questionnaire. Additionally, at least two action items from each category are required.

iv. *Award/Recognition*

There was a brief discussion about awards and recognition. It was agreed that residents that qualify will receive a yard sign, a certificate, recognition by the Environmental Advisory Board, and potentially be recognized by the Board of Supervisors. Residents could also opt to be recognized in the *Whitemarsh Weekly*.

v. *BOS Presentation (November 6, 2025)*

Ms. Shreero said that she will present the program at the November 6, 2025 Board of Supervisors workshop meeting.

5. NEW BUSINESS

a. *Redtail Update*

Ms. Zrillo went through the tracker spreadsheet. Redtail has worked an average of approximately 30 hours per month and they would need about 31 hours a month to fulfill 100% of their contract allotment. Work was done at Koontz and Mathers Mill in August.

b. *Debrief- journeyworks*

Ms. Shreero said that she thought the Pollinator Garden Part II event was successful. The Board wanted to thank Rob Brown, Media Coordinator for the Township, for attending and capturing the event. In the Spring, he can go back and get footage of the garden in bloom.

c. *Leaf Social Media Campaign*

The Board decided this would be a 2026 project after the rollout of the Property Recognition Program.

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS (none)

7. BOARD COMMENTS

Ms. Harris said that she has some ideas for projects she would like the Board to do next year. One of the projects includes re-visiting the Green Recognition Award recipients to see which awards are still valid.

8. Next Meeting Date: November 17, 2025

Ms. Shreero announced that the next meeting is November 17, 2025. The Board discussed having another special meeting dedicated to the Property Recognition Program. The tentative date is Monday, December 1, 2025 from 2-4 PM.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Geasland made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Harris seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:54 PM.

**WHITEMARSH TOWNSHIP
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD
DECEMBER 1, 2025**

MEMBERS:

GORDON GEASLAND DEBRA HARRIS (Vice-Chair) KAREN KABNICK DEBORAH SHREERO (Chair)

VICTOR LOW VACANT VACANT

LIAISONS:

SAMANTHA ZRILLO, STAFF PATRICE TURENNE, BOS

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Shreero called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- This meeting was advertised in the *Times Herald* on Thursday, November 13, 2025. Ms. Zrillo announced that this meeting was properly posted in the *Times Herald* in accordance with advertisement requirements on November 13th.

BUSINESS:

- “Better Yards, Better Whitmarsh, Better Planet” Residential Property Recognition Program
Ms. Zrillo projected the action items for the program on the screen. The meeting was dedicated to going through these one by one and making any necessary edits. The informal meeting was discussion based and public were invited to actively participate throughout the process.

There were no material changes to the action items; edits included largely grammatical changes and relocation of where they appeared.

Public in attendance: Tam Paulits, Jason Landau Goodman

Ms. Paulits, Whitmarsh resident, and Mr. Landau Goodman, candidate for state representative, were both in attendance and their comments were incorporated into discussion.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: (none)

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS: Mr. Geasland announced to the attendees that the Planning Commission is scheduled to hear the project proposal at 1001 Washington Street and circulated an email from another Whitmarsh resident that outlined concerns about the development proposal. Mr. Geasland encouraged attendees to go to the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: Ms. Kabnick made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Low seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 4:49 PM.

Redtail Invoice Tracker 2025

Work Locations	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Year-to-Date
Koontz Park	n/a	n/a	1.33	3	11.89	20.55	6.8	12.42	0	8	0.17	2.75	66.91
Mathers Mill	3.07	7.55	9.17	n/a	7.77	8.61	15.16	19.01	0	3.25	0	2.86	76.45
McCarthy Basin	29.25	9.17	21.67	14.25	19.28	9.83	3.75	n/a	14.05	24.84	6.26	43.82	196.17
Woodbine and Buttercup Lane Basin	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0.62	3.99	n/a	n/a	0	n/a	0	3.7	8.31
Township Building													0
(photos)	1.25	1	1.75	0.5	1.75	2	1	1	0.75	1.75	0.25	1.25	14.25
(documentation)													
													Total Hours Worked This Year
													362.09

Hours Remaining	12.91
------------------------	-------

Month	Total Hours Worked Across all Locations
January	33.57
February	17.72
March	33.92
April	17.75
May	41.31
June	44.98
July	25.71
August	31.43
September	14.8
October	37.84
November	6.68
December	54.38

Above Average
Below Average

**To reach 100% of contract allotment, Redtail should work an average of 31.25 hours a month*

Worked	Unused	Average
360.09	12.91	30.0075

Better Yards, Better Whitemarsh, Better Planet

Please fill out the following form. *Forms can be filled out more than once.*

If you score a 65 % or higher on the form and complete at least two action items in each category, you can choose to receive a certificate, a decorative recognition sign for their property, and have the opportunity to be recognized by the Board of Supervisors and the *Whitemarsh Weekly Newsletter*.

1. Name

2. Email

3. Address

4. Phone number (optional)

Plants Native Species

Definition: A plant is native if it has occurred naturally in a region without human introduction.

Reason: Native plants are adapted to local growing conditions. They have co-evolved with local wildlife to provide optimal food and habitat. They are the foundation of the food web and are the best choice to provide food and habitat for native animals, insects, and birds.

5. At least one-half of the trees on the property are native species. (Exclude fruit and nut trees grown for personal consumption.)

Benefits: Cleaner Air, Cleaner Water, Increased Biodiversity, Water Management, Carbon Dioxide Sequestration, Beautification

Mark only one oval.

Yes

No

Other: _____

6. Bonus: two-thirds of the trees are native species. (Exclude fruit and nut trees grown for personal consumption.)

Benefits: Cleaner Air, Cleaner Water, Increased Biodiversity, Water Management, Carbon Dioxide Sequestration, Beautification

Mark only one oval.

Yes

No

Other: _____

7. Property has at least one mature, native shade tree. A shade tree is a deciduous tree that reaches at least 45 feet in height at maturity. Eastern white pine and Virginia pine are also considered shade trees.

Benefits: Cleaner Air, Cleaner Water, Increased Biodiversity, Water Management, Carbon Dioxide Sequestration, Beautification

Mark only one oval.

Yes

No

Other: _____

8. Applicant has planted a native shade tree on the property. One point for each shade tree planted, up to three points total.

Benefits: Cleaner Air, Cleaner Water, Increased Biodiversity, Water Management, Carbon Dioxide Sequestration, Beautification

Mark only one oval.

Yes

No

Other: _____

9. Applicant has planted a native understory tree on the property. An understory tree is a deciduous or evergreen tree, single or multi-stem, which is expected to reach a mature height between 15-45 feet. One point for each tree planted, up to three points.

Benefits: Cleaner Air, Cleaner Water, Increased Biodiversity, Stormwater Management, Carbon Dioxide Sequestration, Beautification

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
- No
- Other: _____

10. At least one-half of the shrubs on the property are native species. A shrub is a woody plant that has several stems and is usually less 10 feet tall.

Benefits: Cleaner Water, Increased Biodiversity, Water Management, Beautification

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
- No
- Other: _____

11. Bonus: two-thirds of the shrubs are native species.

Benefits: Cleaner Water, Increased Biodiversity, Water Management, Beautification

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
- No
- Other: _____

12. Property has gardens or meadows planted primarily with native perennials and grasses.

Benefits: Cleaner Air, Increased Biodiversity, Water Management, Beautification

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
- No
- Other: _____

13. Bonus: Applicant has devoted a large portion of the property to native perennial gardens or meadows.

Benefits: Cleaner Air, Increased Biodiversity, Water Management, Beautification

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
- No
- Other: _____

14. Comments

Controls Invasive Plants

Definition: Non-native plants have been introduced by humans, intentionally or by accident. Some non-native plants are considered invasive. Invasive plants spread aggressively, outcompeting native species, causing environmental and economic harm.

See the PA DCNR list of invasive species. *****insert live link*****

Reason: Invasive plants out-compete native plants and take over habitats because they lack their natural predators and pathogens. This reduces the habitat for native plants and wildlife and disrupts the local ecosystem.

15. Applicant seeks to learn more about invasive species and identify them on the property.

Benefit: Increased Biodiversity

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
- No
- Other: _____

16. Applicant works to remove invasive annuals and perennials.

Benefit: Increased Biodiversity

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
- No
- Other: _____

17. Applicant works to remove invasive vines, shrubs, and small trees.

Benefit: Increased Biodiversity

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
- No
- Other: _____

18. Applicant removes large invasive trees as is practical. We recognize that the removal of large trees is expensive and that they do provide some environmental benefits.

Benefit: Increased Biodiversity

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
- No
- Other: _____

19. Applicant pledges not to plant any invasive species in the future.

Benefit: Increased Biodiversity

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
- No
- Other: _____

Increases Habitat

Definition: Applicant has created habitats designed to support native animals, insects, or birds.

Reason: Native species of plants, animals, insects, and birds are in decline. Properties with native habitats support native species and work together to create a vibrant, biodiverse, local ecosystem.

20. Applicant has and maintains a pollinator or butterfly garden of native plants chosen to provide nourishment and habitat throughout the year.

Benefits: Increased Biodiversity, Water Management, Beautification

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
- No
- Other: _____

21. Applicant leaves fall leaves where possible to provide habitat for ground dwelling species and for them to safely overwinter.

Benefit: Increased Biodiversity

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
- No
- Other: _____

22. Applicant defers spring garden clean up until the weather warms to allow overwintering insects to emerge.

Benefits: Increased Biodiversity

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
- No
- Other: _____

23. Applicant provides clean water for wildlife. Examples include bird baths and water features.

Benefit: Increased Biodiversity

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
- No
- Other: _____

24. Applicant reduces light pollution by using yellow LED bulbs in outdoor fixtures. Yellow light reduces negative impacts on wildlife.

Benefit: Increased Biodiversity, Beautification

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
- No
- Other: _____

25. Applicant reduces light pollution by turning off lights at night and/or using motion sensors where light is needed.

Benefit: Beautification

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
- No
- Other: _____

26. Property has at least two of the trees listed below. These "Keystone" trees are important to the local ecosystem as they support a significant number of caterpillars that provide food for many birds and animals. The "Keystone" tree species in our area are native species of:

- oaks (*Quercus*),
- cherries and plums (*Prunus*),
- willows (*Salix*),
- birch (*Betula*),
- cottonwoods (*Populus*),
- maples and boxelders (*Acer*),
- crabapples (*Malus*)

Benefits: Cleaner Air, Cleaner Water, Increased Biodiversity, Water Management, Carbon Dioxide Sequestration, Beautification

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
- No
- Other: _____

27. Property has "soft landings," areas of native plants and/or fall leaves under trees to provide critical habitat for butterflies, moths, lightning bugs, and other beneficial insects.

Benefits: Increased Biodiversity, Water Management, Beautification

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
- No
- Other: _____

28. Property has several native understory trees or shrubs that produce fruit, berries, or nuts for wildlife.

Benefits: Cleaner Air, Cleaner Water, Increased Biodiversity, Beautification

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
- No
- Other: _____

29. Applicant maintains log, brush, or rock piles, stone walls, or other similar spaces for wildlife habitats.

Benefits: Increased Biodiversity

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
- No
- Other: _____

30. Applicant provides habitat designed to support birds throughout the year. Examples include: bird houses that should be cleaned each year and making windows bird safe by placing window film or patterns on the glass.

Benefits: Increased Biodiversity

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
- No
- Other: _____

31. Applicant provides habitat designed to support bat houses and cleans them each year.

Benefits: Increased Biodiversity

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
- No
- Other: _____

Adopts Green Yard Care and Gardening Practices

Definition: Lawn care, whether completed by homeowner or professional lawn company, is done with manual or electric lawn equipment. Applicant uses organic methods for lawn and garden care whenever possible. There is minimal use of insecticides, herbicides, and fertilizers. When necessary, the safest form is used, and all guidelines are followed to avoid improper use, runoff, overspray, drift, and lingering negative effects.

Reason: Practicing sustainable methods in your lawn and gardens will (1) support natural processes; (2) reduce air, water, and soil pollution; (3) prevent the negative effects from gasoline powered equipment; and (4) reduce the negative effects of fertilizers and yard chemicals.

32. Lawn mowing equipment is electric or manual.

Benefits: Cleaner Air, Noise Reduction

Mark only one oval.

Yes

No

Other: _____

33. All lawn care tasks, other than mowing, are done manually or with electric equipment. Examples: using rakes, hand tools, electric leaf blowers, and/or string trimmers.

Benefits: Cleaner Air, Noise Reduction

Mark only one oval.

Yes

No

Other: _____

34. Applicant does not use fertilizer or, if used, applies only organic fertilizer. When applied, care is taken to use at the correct time of year and in the correct quantities, to avoid runoff.

Benefits: Cleaner Water, Increased Biodiversity

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
- No
- Other: _____

35. There is minimal or no use of herbicides, pesticides, and fungicides. If used, the applicant uses the safest method and follows all guidelines to ensure proper use and avoid negative side-effects.

Benefits: Cleaner Air, Cleaner Water, Increased Biodiversity

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
- No
- Other: _____

36. Applicant allows fall leaves to remain undisturbed, where feasible. The remainder are used on the property for mulch or are composted.

Benefits: Cleaner Water, Increased Biodiversity, Water Management, Carbon Dioxide Sequestration, Water Conservation

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
- No
- Other: _____

Manages Water

Definition: Applicant manages the property to encourage the absorption of rainwater on site and limit runoff. The applicant follows practices designed to minimize municipal water use.

Reason: The absorption and use of rainwater on site supports plants and recharges groundwater, manages stormwater to minimize the negative effects on the community, local streams and rivers, and the environment, including flooding, erosion, and water pollution from nutrient, chemical, and sediment runoff.

37. Applicant uses rain barrels to collect rainwater.

Benefits: Water Management, Water Conservation

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
- No
- Other: _____

38. Applicant limits water usage by hand watering, using soaker hoses, drip irrigation, or other root-targeted watering methods and by watering in early morning or evening to limit evaporation.

Benefit: Water Conservation

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
- No
- Other: _____

39. Applicant does not water lawn grass, including during dry periods. When dry, grass will go temporarily dormant and recover once it rains.

Benefit: Water Conservation

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
- No
- Other: _____

40. Property has at least one large tree. Large trees absorb and manage large quantities of rainwater.

Benefits: Cleaner Air, Cleaner Water, Increased Biodiversity, Water Management, Carbon Dioxide Sequestration, Beautification, Water Conservation

Mark only one oval.

Yes

No

Other: _____

41. The applicant maintains mulch or plantings under trees and shrubs instead of lawn grass.

Benefits: Cleaner Air, Increased Biodiversity, Water Management, Beautification, Water Conservation

Mark only one oval.

Yes

No

Other: _____

42. Applicant encourages stormwater absorption on site with rain gardens, buffers, vegetated swales, or other green stormwater management techniques.

Benefits: Cleaner Water, Increased Biodiversity, Water Management, Beautification, Water Conservation

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
- No
- Other: _____

43. Applicant has significantly reduced lawn grass by installing (preferably native) plants, trees, shrubs, or grasses.

Benefits: Cleaner Water, Increased Biodiversity, Water Management, Beautification, Water Conservation

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
- No
- Other: _____

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GREENMARSHIAN NATURE SUPPORTER



BETTER YARD

BETTER WHITEMARSH,

BETTER PLANET



GREENMARSHIAN NATURE SUPPORTER



BETTER YARD

BETTER WHITEMARSH,

BETTER PLANET





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