

TOWNSHIP OF MEDFORD
ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (EAAC) MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, MAY 12, 2026– 7:00 pm
MEDFORD TOWN HALL, 49 UNION STREET

Present: Pola Galie, Deborah Evans, Brian Pelloni, Nicole Saviano, Alexis Troutman, James Burke, Ileen Wright

Absent: Ed Tenthoff, Sandra Krueger, Alice Levas

Guest: Angela Sforza, Township Liaison

Please note: These minutes were produced using a note taking app via a recording of the meeting .

Approval of Minutes from March, 2026. Brian Pelloni moved to amend for the spelling of James Burke's name. Deborah Evans seconded and it was unanimously approved

Event Planning and Coordination Details

Nicole Saviano discussed event planning details including layout requirements, volunteer coordination, and table arrangements for the Repair Cafe. Angela Sforza confirmed that 8-foot tables would be provided. Pola Galie also addressed concerns about repair coaches and their expertise, noting that questions about their capabilities had been raised online, leading to the decision to post a list of coaches and examples of repairable items.

Grant Applications and Updates

Pola Galie discussed several grant applications and updates. The 2025 Community Energy Program grant was denied due to late submission, and the Sustainable South Jersey mini-grant was also not approved. Pola Galie is waiting for decisions on the ANJEC Pollinator grant and mentioned an upcoming email about a tour at FREC on May 26th.

Community Events Planning Discussion

Pola Galie discussed upcoming community events, including the Green Fair and Community Wide Yard Sale. Vendors will include a coffee truck, Jenny's Goodies on June 6th organized by the Women's Club of Medford. She mentioned that the Garden Club plans to participate and noted their recent acquisition of a Trex bench to accompany the bench we provided for the Gold Star Memorial. Pola Galie also highlighted a residence volunteer program scheduled for the 21st at the post.

TREX Recycling Program Update

She reported that the Trex recycling program is performing well, averaging over 100 pounds per week, and mentioned ordering seed bookmarks with \$100 gift card for the event. Pola Galie also provided updates on the Adopt-a-Strain program and community composting initiative, noting positive feedback and plans to grow the program, particularly in light of upcoming food waste regulations.

Community Composting Program Update

Pola Galie discussed the community composting program, sharing positive feedback about its convenience compared to traditional methods. There will be another push to get people to sign up and see how we can continue to grow the program.

Data Center Ordinance Proposal Discussion

The committee discussed a proposed ordinance to ban data centers in Medford, with Pola Galie having informally passed the idea through a council member who expressed interest in entertaining it. The committee voted to advise the council to pass the ordinance, with plans to send a model ordinance and support letter for review. The discussion also covered expanding the Sustainable Medford Facebook page to include Instagram to reach a younger demographic, though there were concerns about managing resident comments on social media platforms.

Communication/Instagram

The Sustainable Medford Facebook page and potential Instagram account was discussed as well as the procedures for their use.

There being no other business to come before the group, Brian Pelloni moved to adjourn. Seconded by Nicole Saviano and the meeting was adjourned at 8:21 pm.

Next meeting will be June 9, 2026 7 pm in the community room at Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Pola Galie