

**OFFICIAL****BOROUGH OF FOREST HILLS  
ORDINANCE NO. 1118**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF FOREST HILLS, ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AMENDING CHAPTER 1, PART 6, OF THE FOREST HILLS BOROUGH CODE OF ORDINANCES, ADMINISTRATION AND GOVERNMENT, AS AMENDED, TO REPEAL AND RESTATE SECTION 1-621, ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL, IN ITS ENTIRETY TO REESTABLISH THE ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH, ITS POWERS, AND DUTIES.

**WHEREAS**, Section 2322 of the General Local Government Code, 53 Pa.C.S. §§ 101 *et seq.*, authorizes the Borough of Forest Hills (the "Borough") to establish an Environmental Advisory Council; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough on November 19, 1975, by Ordinance Number 645, codified as Section 1-621 of the Borough of Forest Hills Code of Ordinances, as amended, did establish an Environmental Advisory Council for the Borough; and

**WHEREAS**, Borough Council, in consultation with the Borough Solicitor has reviewed the provisions Section 1-621 regarding the Environmental Advisory Council, and has determined it is in the best interest of the Borough to revise the same in accordance with the General Local Government Code.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the Council of the Borough of Forest Hills hereby ordains and enacts as follows:

**SECTION 1.** Section 1-621 of Chapter 1 of the Forest Hills Borough Code of Ordinances, Administration and Government, is repealed in its entirety and restated as follows:

**§ 1-621 Environmental Advisory Council.**

1. An Environmental Advisory Council (EAC), to be known as the "Forest Hills Environmental Advisory Council," is hereby established. The Environmental Advisory Council shall possess all the powers and be subject to all the responsibilities and duties provided by the Environmental Advisory Councils Law, 53 P.S. § 2321-2329 as amended and adapted by this ordinance.
2. The purpose of the EAC shall be to identify environmental problems within the Borough and recommend plans and programs to Borough Council for the protection and improvement of the quality of the environment and to maintain and oversee the Bird and Wildlife Sanctuary. The Environmental Advisory Council will review Environmental impact statements submitted to the Zoning Officer. All environmental impact statements required by this Code of Ordinances and other Borough ordinances or regulations (i.e., conditional use applications, planned residential development applications, and subdivision and land development applications) shall be reviewed by the Environmental Advisory Council according to the procedures set forth in § 22-315.
3. With approval of Borough Council, the EAC shall conduct environmental public outreach through the development of educational programs and materials to inform residents on issues and remedial actions they can participate in to improve the environment.
4. The chairperson of the EAC shall serve as liaison to Borough Council.
5. The EAC shall work with other Borough committees and groups and its members shall be aware of and respect the powers and duties granted to other boards, councils, and

committees established by Borough Council to avoid duplication of effort.

6. The EAC's advice and recommendation will be taken into consideration by Borough Council prior to motions or actions taken involving matters under the scope of the EAC's responsibilities when such advice and/or recommendations are available to Borough Council.
7. The EAC shall be notified prior to committee discussions and/or council votes which require their input such that the EAC has at least one month to consider and advise on any action. However, Borough Council, in its sole discretion, may proceed with discussion or a vote on any such matter prior to EAC's input if doing so is in the best interests of the Borough.
8. EAC members are encouraged to attend Borough Council meetings and shall receive via email the agendas of Borough Council committee and Borough Council meetings which require their input.
9. The EAC shall be composed of not less than three (3) nor more than seven (7) persons, all of whom shall be residents of the Borough. Relevant knowledge or experience in environmental issues is preferred. Appointments of the members of the EAC shall be made by motion of the Borough Council for a term of three (3) years.
10. The EAC shall meet at least monthly, at its discretion, and shall keep minutes of its meetings and records of its activities and shall make a written report annually to Borough Council by March 1<sup>st</sup> of each year.
11. The EAC shall elect its officers annually from among its members. A chairperson and secretary shall be elected.
12. The EAC shall follow its bylaws and reasonable rules and regulations for the administration of its business. The EAC's bylaws, rules, and regulations shall be established by Borough Council.
13. Borough Council may appoint no more than three (3) residents of the Borough to serve as alternate members of the EAC. Appointments of alternate members of the EAC shall be made by motion of the Borough Council for a term of three (3) years.
14. If, by reason of absence or disqualification of a member, or members, a quorum or a full complement of members is not reached, the Chairperson of the EAC shall designate as many alternate members to sit on the EAC as may be needed to provide a quorum or a full complement of members. Any alternate member shall continue to serve on the EAC only so long as deemed necessary by the Chairperson. When seated pursuant to the provisions of this section, an alternate shall be entitled to participate in all proceedings and discussions of the EAC to the same and full extent as provided by law for EAC members, including specifically the right to cast a vote as a voting member and shall have all the powers and duties set forth in this section and as otherwise provided by law. Any alternate may participate in any proceeding or discussion of the EAC but shall not be entitled to vote as a member unless designated as a voting alternate member by the Chairperson pursuant to this section.
15. Any member of the EAC once qualified and appointed may be removed from office for malfeasance, misfeasance or nonfeasance in office or for other just cause by a majority vote of the Borough Council taken after the member has received 15 days' advance notice of the intent to take such a vote. A hearing shall be held in connection with the vote if the member requests it in writing. Any appointment to fill a vacancy created by removal shall be only for the unexpired term.
16. Vacancies during a term shall be filled by an alternate member selected by the Chairperson upon approval made by motion of the Borough Council. If an alternate member is not willing to fill a vacancy, the Borough Council shall appoint a resident of the Borough to fill the vacancy in accordance with § 1-621.9 herein.

**SECTION 2.** All prior ordinances are hereby repealed in whole or in part to the extent inconsistent herewith.

**SECTION 3.** This Ordinance shall take effect in accordance with applicable law.

**ORDAINED** and **ENACTED** this 19<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2024, by the Council of the Borough of Forest Hills in lawful session duly assembled.

ATTEST:

BOROUGH OF FOREST HILLS



Seth Abrams  
Borough Manager  
(SEAL)

By: Barbara Martin

Barbara Martin  
President, Borough Council

**EXAMINED** and **APPROVED** this 14<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2024.



Frank Porco, Jr.  
Mayor