

Abington Township

Environmental Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes for February 14, 2018

Call to Order: 7:30 pm In attendance: Jennifer Sherwood, Sue Myerov, John Sorrentino, Cakky Evans-Braun, Karin McGarry-Rosen, Jim Webb, Andrea Soo, Neal Gale and Kurt Wood.

Guest: Dave Bell

Minutes: The January minutes were accepted with modifications.

Chairperson's Report: The report was accepted.

Treasurer's Report: The report was accepted.

Committee Reports:

Policy: The report is to be revised and resubmitted.

Programs: The report was accepted.

Engagement: The report was accepted.

Current Business:

Sustainable Abington/STAR Communities Program: Cakky and Jenn attended the Land Development Committee meeting and testified regarding the EAC's recommendation that the Abington School District (ASD) should pursue LEED certification for its planned expansion at the High School. Prior information given to the Committee erroneously depicted LEED certification as lasting only for one year. Cakky testified that LEED certification remains in place indefinitely provided energy and water usage information is reported. Cakky also sent a clarifying e-mail to the ASD and reiterated the EAC's commitment to assist in the pursuit of LEED certification.

Neal, Cakky and the Penn State University – Abington (PSU) intern, Nicole, met with Richard Manfredi and Tara Wehmeyer to discuss opportunities for assisting the Township to improve its energy efficiency and sustainability. Neal will survey various departments' energy usage and Nicole will investigate resources and information for utilizing sustainable energy sources.

Other areas where Cakky is working with Nicole include sustainable entrepreneurship projects and updating the STAR certification package for environmental justice information.

Finally, Cakky discussed the STAR Program annual subscription renewal which Cakky has been coordinating with Tara. It was agreed that we will renew our subscription for another year.

Transportation Initiatives: Sue forwarded a draft resolution in support of the circuit trail initiative to the Township Manager.

Rain Barrel the Town (RBTT) project: The rain barrel build session has been re-scheduled for April 14. The 2018 rain barrel workshop series has been scheduled (see upcoming events schedule attached to this month's EAC agenda). Karin will speak to the Tookany/Tacony-Frankford Watershed Partnership (TTF) and the Shade Tree Commission about coordinating a Rain Barrel session at Roychester Park.

EAC By-law Review: Revisions from previous year were reviewed and updated. The changes will be distributed to EAC members and will be brought to a vote during the March meeting.

2017 Annual Report: Jenn requested input from EAC members by February 20, 2018.

Planning for 2018 Activities: A newsletter needs to be prepared which should include the upcoming e-cycling (Cakky) and paper shredding events (Kurt), Earth Day cleanups/events as well as the Audubon Bird Walks (Jenn). Cakky and Kurt could use support if anyone is available.

PALTA Conference Planning – April 14, 2018: Several EAC members indicated that they will be attending and/or presenting at the Conference.

New Business:

BET Development at the Abington YMCA: A revised development plan is being presented for the soon-to-be former Abington YMCA site to the Planning Commission on February 27. The proposed development is for 230 units of Senior Housing. A discussion was held regarding having better coordination with the Township manager when development plans are submitted so that the EAC can review in advance of their presentation to the Planning Commission as the Commission requires written comments prior to its meeting.

Open Space Plan Update: Sue is working with the Township to apply for a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to support the update.

Earth Day Cleanups: Three cleanups are scheduled as follows: March 24 at the Crosswicks Wildlife Sanctuary, April 7 at the Ardsley Wildlife Sanctuary and April 21 the Keswick Avenue Underpass.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm

Next Meeting – March 14, 2018