

# Abington Township

## Environmental Advisory Council

### Meeting Minutes for May 9, 2018

**Call to Order:** 7:35 pm In attendance: Jennifer Sherwood, John Sorrentino, Cakky Evans-Braun, Michele Kaczalek, Karin McGarry-Rosen, Jim Webb, Neal Gale and Andrea Soo.

**Minutes:** The minutes from April's meeting were accepted.

**Chairperson's Report:** The report was accepted.

**Treasurer's Report:** The report was accepted.

#### **Committee Reports:**

**Policy:** The report was accepted.

**Programs:** The report was accepted.

**Engagement:** The report was accepted with an addition noting the scheduling of a Rain Barrel Workshop on June 23, 2018 at the Florey Lane Training Center.

#### **Current Business:**

**Sustainable Abington/STAR Communities Program:** Discussed the Go Green Rewards Card brochure prepared by the PSU-Abington intern. For any photos to be used in the brochure, we must obtain the person's permission prior to using them. Also, we agreed that we should not list specific discounts in the brochure as the participating businesses may change their discounts over time.

The PSU-Abington intern has completed her internship as the semester has ended. She utilized approximately 2/3 of the hours allocated to her.

**Energy Initiatives:** Cakky proposed that a letter be prepared from the EAC to the Township Commissioners encouraging them to purchase renewable energy for use by the Township

**Transportation Initiatives:** Nothing new to report.

**Rain Barrel the Town (RBTT) project:** There are several more Rain Barrel

Workshops scheduled including two at Collins Nursery on May 12 (noon and 2 pm), June 6 at the Abington Main Library (7:00 pm) and June 23 at the Florey Lane Training Center. Karin reported that there is a shortage of bungs for the drums. Not all drums have both bungs when they are picked up from the supplier. She will investigate on-line sources.

John will contact Gary Calore at PSU about coordinating the possible supply of drums by Pepsi.

**Earth Day Cleanups:** The following cleanup events are scheduled: Hallowell Park on 5/19 and Roslyn Park on 6/1 (with ASHS students).

**PALTA Conference Planning** – A report out of the conference was provided. Approximately 80 to 90 people from across Pennsylvania participated. There were several presentations on climate issues. Neal provided a presentation on the energy microgrid proposal. Neal will follow up with the PALTA staff to encourage ongoing coordination of issues facing municipalities.

**Open Space Plan Update:** Nothing new to report.

#### **New Business:**

**Draft Planning Commission Letter:** A letter of support to the Township Planning Commission was drafted by Sue and was distributed to EAC members on April 23 for comment on April 23. Any additional comments should be sent to Jenn so that a final letter can be prepared and signed by all EAC Board members.

**Area of Discussion for Abington School District/Administration:** Cakky has requested information from ASD regarding proposed green features for the planned ASHS expansion. Additionally, Cakky plans to write to the Blackstone corporate contact for green buildings to solicit further support for green features.

**Selection of 2018 Montgomery Award:** Candidates were discussed and a vote was taken to select this year's winner. The winner will be recognized at the July 12 Board of Commissioners meeting.

**Go Green Rewards Program:** Discussed awarding points to those participants who commute to work via bicycle. It was agreed that cycling commuters should be given 5 points for this action.

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm

Next Meeting – June 13, 2018