

**Abington Township
Environmental Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes for July 11, 2018**

1. Call to Order: 7:35 pm

Attendance:

Members: Sue Myerov, Michele Kaczalek, Karin McGarry-Rosen, Jennifer Sherwood and John Sorrentino

Associate Members: Kurt Wood

Guests: Dennis Stefanski, Project Manager – SEPTA and Wendy Green Harvey, Community Relations – SEPTA

2. Approval of Minutes: The minutes from the June 13, 2018 were approved

3. SEPTA Jenkintown Creek Flood Mitigation Project – Briefing by Dennis Stefanski

Mr. Stefanski presented background information on the project which is needed to reduce flooding along the West Trenton Line, just north of the Jenkintown Station. He shared design plans with the EAC members. The area is adjacent to recently expanded substation and is within both Abington Township and Cheltenham Township. Recent expansion in this area included some green stormwater infrastructure, but this is not enough to handle large storm events. There are several pinch points caused by location of culverts and piers. SEPTA would like to keep box culverts in place but remove the piers which are restricting flow. They would like to expand the existing naturalized basin area (on the Abington side), improve the stream meander along the flow path and use log veins as well to slow the velocity of stormwater flows through the area. These are all practices designed to manage the stormwater runoff through this area, reducing impacts to SEPTA infrastructure (and regional rail interruptions) in a very busy commuter corridor. The proposed work is all within SEPTA's right of way, but they would like the support of the municipalities and adjacent residents. For Abington side, this project is closest to the homes and businesses along Stewart Avenue.

SEPTA has made several presentations at public works meetings and requested additional support to move from 30% design to 60% design.

Since the design incorporates stream restoration and Green Stormwater Infrastructure design elements, the EAC members agreed to aid in promoting approval of the project. This could be done via our e-newsletters and other social media. Mr. Stefanski and Ms. Harvey indicated they could prepare an article for us. EAC members also mentioned the Abington Pre-Night out event. Ms. Harvey indicated she would look into possibly attending as it would align with the start of the new KEYCARD.

Susan noted that she would resend the SEPTA Presentation Slides.

4. Reports

Chairperson's Report - Accepted

Treasurer's Report – Accepted with discussion regarding receipts for upcoming Montgomery Awards Celebration. Michele reminded everyone to submit receipts for any items purchased for the reception.

5. Committee Reports

- A. Policy Committee Report – Accepted
- B. Program Committee Report – Accepted
- C. Engagement Report – Accepted

6. Active Business

A. Energy and Sustainability Initiatives: Cakky reviewed energy purchase options for the township including the 100%, 50% or 0% renewables and recommended that the EAC support the 100% renewable energy purchase goals. Cakky will continue to follow-up on this issue.

B. Rain Barrel the Town (RBTT) project:

Final Spring Rain Barrel workshop held at Florey Lane on June 23. There were 15 in attendance and 5 barrels were sold bringing our year total to 98. Karin will coordinate with Collins Nursery for Fall dates. EAC members discussed the Pepsi Mini-grant which could be used to perhaps supply additional Rain Barrels. John will talk to Gary Calore to get Pepsi Contact.

C. Go Green Rewards Program: Jenny A'Harrah a student from PSU is developing an APP to be used in conjunction with the Go Green Rewards Card. She will be sharing a beta version soon but noted that its very challenging to develop an app for this purpose. She will also be updating our website information. There were no comments on the brochure.

D. 2018 Montgomery Award: Michele confirmed plans for the Montgomery Award Presentation and follow up celebration scheduled for July 12 BOC meeting at 7:30 pm, Commissioner Matt Vahey will present the award to the 2018 winner, June Parkinson. The celebration will take place in the small conference room on the first floor of the municipal building.

E. Draft Planning Commission Letter: EAC members Susan Myerov, Michele Kaczalek, Cakky Evens and Jennifer Sherwood attended the Planning Commission meeting on June 26 for the presentation of the redesign of the Abington Terrace proposal. Due to changes from original submission, the original review letter will need to be revised and submitted to the Township Planning Commission prior to their next meeting on this proposal (August). Susan and Jenn agreed to review the letter and adjust based on new proposal. EAC will need copy

of revised plans.

F. Abington Pre-Night Out: We have secured space for our display table. EAC members agreed that this year's theme is anti-plastic. Activities will include PLARN (lead by Karin), distribution of new reusable shopping bags, promotion of watershed issues (Susan will bring large map showing the three watersheds). Those wishing to receive a tote bag would be asked to sign our sustainability pledge which has been updated (see attached). Jenn volunteered to develop a fishing game to illustrate plastic in waterways issue.

We discussed having popcorn again and noted that it was Andrea and Jim who purchased those items last year. All agreed having popcorn was good draw. We will figure out schedule for EAC volunteers closer to date. Karin and Susan have tables and Susan also has canopy for the event.

New Business:

AT Paper Shredding on July 21 – Cakky will attend and collect food items.

Karin asked for articles for e-newsletter which will be distributed prior to the July 21st event. RB workshop, pre-night out and the pledge would be topics.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm

Next Meeting – August 8, 2018