

**Abington Township
Environmental Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes for January 9, 2019**

Call to Order: 7:31 pm

Attendees:

Members: Cakky Evans (CE), Michele Kaczalek (MK), Karin McGarry-Rosen (KMR), Sue Myerov (SM), Andrea Soo (AS), Jim Webb (JW)

Associate Members: David Bell (DB), Neil Gail (NG), Jennifer Sherwood (JS)

Approval of Minutes: The minutes from the December 12, 2018 meeting were approved.

Reports

Chairperson's Report - Approved

Treasurer's Report – Approved.

Committee Reports

A. Policy Report – Approved

B. Program Committee Report – Approved.

C. Engagement Report – Approved.

1. Active Business

- A. Sustainable Abington/[USGBC LEED for Cities](#) Program/PSU Abington Pepsi Mini Grant:** The EAC discussed the content of the draft [LEED v4.1 for Cities and Communities beta](#) as well as the existing LEED for Cities certification criteria to determine our eligibility to participate. The USGBC is offering working (webinar) sessions beginning in mid-January to inform the public on certification requirements as well as provide an opportunity for public comment. Key points included:
- a. The program is seeking individuals who possess relevant expertise to help facilitate discussion and act as liaisons between Abington Township and the USGBC.
 - b. EAC divided the Scorecard areas for an initial review to determine if Abington Township is able to meet the minimum prerequisites to achieve certification.
 - c. CE will meet with R. Manfredi to gauge his interest in having the township participate in the new certification program based on our assessment of the Scorecard/performance outcome areas.
 - d. EAC agreed that we must have strong commitment from township staff to attend the working sessions and support the certification program throughout its life cycle to make our participation in the program possible and beneficial to our sustainability efforts.
- B. Energy Initiatives:** CE discussed tentatively scheduling a Sustainability Open Office consultation with CDP.net representative on 1/24 or 1/29.
- C. Aqua PA and PFAS Contamination:** Continued our discussion of water supply contamination and Aqua's request for rate hikes as well as the need for revised maximum contaminant levels of these compounds. CE announced that PADEP has provided an [open comment period](#) through 1/31 to take public input regarding per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) contamination in groundwater.

- D. Rain Barrel the Town (RBTT) project:** Discussed partnering with Connie Sanchez (Development and Engagement Liaison at Briar Bush) on drafting language in a Briar Bush grant proposal to promote and support EAC programs. Examples of support included funding our rain barrel program in supplies/workshops or subsidizing rain barrel purchases for low-income families. JS will help draft proposal language, as appropriate.
- E. BET Abington Terrace development at YMCA:** The BOC meeting on 1/10 will discuss a motion to advertise the newly revised zoning text amendment to the BET development proposal. Pertinent text amendments included reducing the base density for Senior Apt. Unit development from 24 to 20 units per gross acre of land and maximum density from 36 to 26 units per gross acre of land. Bonuses for an increase in density and/or impervious cover shall be approved by the BOC as part of the conditional use hearing for the proposed H-12 use.
- a. CE and SM have agreed to prepare an updated draft response letter to BET's updated text amendment for review.
 - b. EAC discussed reviewing our comprehensive plan, among other resources, for innovations in density bonus criteria.

2. New Business

- A. 2019 Planning:** Discussed by-laws and proposing revisions to how EAC is described on our Abington Township website.
- B. EAC Network Conference:** The PA Land Trust Association has invited EAC members to their [2019 EAC Network Conference](#) on 5/18 at Skytop Lodge (Poconos) to have roundtable discussions on climate action and other sustainable practices within the municipality.

The meeting adjourned at 9:54 pm
Next Meeting – February 13, 2019

Acronym Key:

BOC – Board of Commissioners
EAC – Environmental Advisory Council
PADEP – Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
USGBC – U.S. Green Building Council