

# Abington Township

## Environmental Advisory Council

### Meeting Minutes for March 8, 2017

**Call to Order:** 7:30 pm In attendance: Jennifer Sherwood, John Sorrentino, Jim Webb, Sue Myerov, Michele Kaczalek, Karin McGarry-Rosen and Andrea Soo. There were two guests attending the meeting as well: Neal Gale and Nina Bisbee. Jenn provided some background for our guests regarding the programs and issues that the EAC undertakes. Nina and Neal described their backgrounds and why they were interested in finding out more about the EAC.

**Minutes:** The minutes were accepted.

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

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

#### **Committee Reports:**

**Built Environment:** The report was accepted.

**Climate and Energy:** The report was accepted.

**Health, Safety and Education:** The report was accepted.

The title of the Committee Reports was discussed. It was decided by a unanimous vote to use Policy, Programs and Engagement as Committee Report headings for future reporting.

**Current Business:** **Sustainable Abington/STAR Communities Program** – Regarding STAR, Penn State-Abington (PSU) is trying to involve Abington stakeholders by creating a Steering Committee to address those areas for which the Township did not achieve high scores. John will check with Gary Calore to determine the current status of those efforts. There is still the expectation that PSU will have an intern position to support the STAR effort in the Fall. Areas where the intern could focus were discussed. These areas included solid waste flow in the Township, Environmental Justice issues and a competition to spur greater development of the Go Green Rewards Card. A meeting to present an update on the draft Zoning

Ordinance is scheduled for March 13. Jenn encouraged the attendees to submit their comments. The Walk/Park/Train meeting was held on February 27.

**Rain Barrel the Town (RBTT) project:** The first Rain Barrel workshop is scheduled for April 9 at Briar Bush (2:00pm). Michele, Jenn, Karin and Sue will be attending. Karin will be leading a group of Girl Scouts in the construction of rain barrels on April 8. Jim will be picking up barrels in anticipation of this.

**2016 Annual Report:** Jenn will be presenting our Annual Report at the Public Affairs meeting on April 5.

**Planning for 2017 activities:**

- i. Township Paper Shredding event is scheduled for 4/8. Andrea will attend to hand out newsletters and collect donations for the Inter-Faith Food Bank.
- ii. Earth Day Clean ups: If any additional clean ups are set up by EAC members, please send these dates and information to Jenn.
- iii. Abington Audubon Bird Town native plant swap will be hosted by Briar Bush Nature Center on April 9.

**New Business:**

**EAC Network Conference:** Conference is scheduled for May 6 in Lancaster, PA. A motion was made to use a portion of the EAC budget to cover the cost of any appointed members attendance at the EAC Network Conference. The motion passed.

**Other:** Sue mentioned that the TTF program has established summer fellowships and is looking to hire several individuals this coming summer. The candidates must be between 18 and 24 years old. She also mentioned a 5K run/walk (Healthy Trails) on April 9 and nominations are being solicited to recognize "Water Warriors".

The use of AmeriCorps personnel may be possible for some of our clean up projects. The PA Horticultural Society has a grant to fund these positions and is being managed by Bob Adams.

The meeting adjourned at 9:22 pm

Next Meeting – April 12, 2017