

# Abington Township

## Environmental Advisory Council

### Meeting Minutes for June 13, 2018

**Call to Order:** 7:38 pm In attendance: Jennifer Sherwood, John Sorrentino, Cakky Braun-Evans, Michele Kaczalek, Karin McGarry-Rosen, Jim Webb, and Andrea Soo.

**Minutes:** The minutes from May'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 with the addition of the information supplied by Sue Myerov via e-mail.

**Programs:** The report was accepted.

**Engagement:** The report was accepted.

#### **Current Business:**

**Energy Initiatives:** Cakky reported that she attended a conference call with the Township Manager Richard Manfredi, Assistant Manager Tara Wehmeyer and Finance Director Kevin Barron on May 16 regarding renewable energy procurement, the Township's Annual Climate/Risk Mitigation Disclosure Report/Questionnaire to the CDP.net as well as determining green infrastructure projects possibly with support from the CDP's Matchmaker Program partnership. Since 2016, we have served as a participation city with this report/questionnaire which is due on July 11, 2018. Also discussed were the spreadsheets Cakky prepared that forecast the costs as of March 2018 if the Township were to switch to 100% or 50% green electricity procurement through Constellation Energy, the current supplier. A link to these "Comparison Green Energy Spreadsheets" was included in the aforementioned Policy Report and Cakky distributed a copy of the comparison costs for the Township's 56 General Service Accounts. Cakky reported that Rich expressed an interest in reviewing a webinar on the Matchmaker Program. The CDP's Matchmaker contact person and Rich have reached out to each other. The call concluded that Kevin will serve as the energy procurement lead with EAC Support. Cakky will be sending a draft of the 2018 report to Rich, Tara and Kevin

so that they can involve other departments as needed with follow up as needed at a later date with the Matchmaker Program (as recommended by CDP.net).

**Transportation Initiatives:** SEPTA is proposing a flood mitigation project near Jenkintown and Walnut Avenues. Sue would like to invite the SEPTA representatives to the July EAC meeting to brief us on their plans. This was approved.

**Rain Barrel the Town (RBTT) project:** There is one more Rain Barrel Workshop scheduled for June 23 at the Florey Lane Training Center. Andrea will attend with Karin and Michele. A Workshop will be scheduled in September at Collins Nursery.

Karin is addressing the shortage of bungs for the drums. Not all drums have both bungs when they are picked up from the supplier. There was a discussion regarding continuing drum pickups through the fall and winter to assure an adequate supply for next spring.

Finally, the Philadelphia Water Department (PWD) is partnering with the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society (PHS) on storm water issues including rain barrels. PHS asked if the EAC would be interested in helping to move the program upstream into Montgomery County. Jenn and the rest of the EAC concurred that this would be appropriate.

**Go Green Rewards Program:** Jenny A'Harrah a student from PSU – Abington made some minor updates to our EAC websites.

**Selection of 2018 Montgomery Award:** Michele will contact the winner who will be recognized at the July 12 Board of Commissioners meeting. Michele will also send out the list of items to bring to celebrate and recognize our winner.

**Draft Planning Commission Letter:** A redesign of the Abington Terrace proposal is expected to be submitted shortly. All EAC members are requested to review this forthcoming proposal as soon as possible and attend the June 26 Planning Commission review so that a letter can be sent to the Township Planning Commission prior to their review and response to the Township Commissioners.

**Area of Discussion for Abington School District/Administration:** Cakky followed up with ASD regarding green design efforts for the ASHS expansion. ASD committed to meet with EAC members to review energy efficiency and other green building design features.. Cakky has recommended drafting an EAC letter of support for green building design features to Mr. Schwartzman and Don Anderson, the Blackstone Group's Chief of Sustainability. The EAC approved providing that the ASD includes green design features that we can support.

**New Business:**

**Abington Pre-Night Out (August 6):** We will request a space at the Pre-Night Out once again. Karin proposed that we purchase and hand out reusable tote bags to help reduce the use of disposal plastic shopping bags. Those wishing to receive a tote would be asked to sign our sustainability pledge. A motion to purchase the totes was passed. Karin will report back regarding price and design.

The meeting adjourned at 9:42 pm

Next Meeting – July 11, 2018