

**Abington Township
Environmental Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes for December 12, 2018**

Call to Order: 7:31 pm

Attendance:

Members: Jennifer Sherwood, Sue Myerov, Michele Kaczalek, Karin McGarry-Rosen, John Sorrentino, Cakky Braun-Evans and Jim Webb

Associate Members: Andrea Soo, Kurt Wood

Approval of Minutes: The minutes from the November 14, 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/STAR Communities program/PSU – Abington Pepsi Mini-grant:** Ashley McIlvaine (nee Nuckles) prepared [a press release](#) regarding the Township being certified as a member of the US Green Building Council (USGBC) LEED City program. The Township must provide a staff person to act as an administrator of this program. John spoke with Gary Calore about the planned use of the remaining funds of the Pepsi Mini-Grant.
- B. Energy Initiatives:** Cakky prepared [a fact sheet](#) to show the annual benefits and reduction in greenhouse gas emissions accrued by the Township's decision to purchase 100% renewable energy. Ashley McIlvaine prepared [a press release](#) regarding the BOC's approval to use 100% green electricity for all Township operations. As a next step, Cakky and Neal want to work with the EAC to garner the Township's endorsement of the Sierra Club's Ready for 100 program.
- 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. Additional information can be found on the

Facebook site: "[Upper Dublin And Neighboring Areas Water Updates.](#)"

- D. Rain Barrel the Town (RBTT) project:** Discussed the need for raising the price of rain barrels due to the increased cost of some of the components used to construct them. It was agreed to maintain the cost at the same rate for 2019.

- E. BET Abington Terrace development at YMCA:** The Planning Commission met on December 12 to discuss this development proposal. Sue, Michele and Cakky attended. The proposed development does fit within the current zoning designation (Life Care Facility) for this site. However, the proposal greatly exceeds the density limits for this use. The Planning Commission voted against the proposal by a 5 to 1 margin. Cakky and Sue will revise the most recent EAC comment letter and will send it out to the EAC Board members for review and concurrence. Sue will seek out support from the Tookany/Tacony-Frankford Watershed Partnership for input on possible storm water issues related to this proposal.

- F. 2019 EAC Township Budget:** Our budget for 2019 is \$2,350.

- G. Bylaws review:** Discussed the possibility of revising the bylaws to allow having co-chairs for the Board (if applicable).

- H. EAC Officer Election:** The following individuals were nominated and were approved for the Board officer positions: Jim Webb – Chair; Sue Myerov – Co-Chair; Michele Kaczalek – Treasurer; and Andrea Soo – Secretary. Jenn has asked to move to an associate member position so that Andrea can become a regular member of the Board. We also discussed the option of limiting the term of Chairperson to a certain number of years with the Vice-Chair who is serving in the last year of the Chair’s appointment then becoming the Chair. This option could encourage members to be willing to serve as Chair by knowing that their term would only last a finite period of time.

2. New Business

- A. 2019 Planning:** Jim recommended that a full discussion take place at the January meeting to look at priorities.

- B. Acknowledgement of Jennifer Sherwood’s EAC Service:** The EAC members recognized Jenn Sherwood for her many years of dedicated service both as a member and in particular for her leadership as Chairperson for the last 8 years. Jenn has devoted many hours to the EAC with great enthusiasm and significant improvement to the environment of Abington Township. We are all grateful for all she has done and continues to do.

- C. Public Works:** A Flooding Study is being conducted by the Township in the Wheatsheaf Lane Area of the Township.

- D. Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association (WVWA) Roychester Area Stormwater**

Study: WVWA staff approached John with a request for his support to act as a liaison with the neighborhood as WVWA works to address stormwater impacts to the Sandy Run Creek which originates in Roychester Park. John agreed to do so pending his availability.

The meeting adjourned at 9:59 pm

Next Meeting – January 9, 2019