

**Abington Township
Environmental Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes for February 13, 2019**

1. **Call to Order:** 7:33 pm

Attendees:

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

Associate Members: Neil Gale (NG), Jennifer Sherwood (JS)

Guests: Karley Feather (KF, Penn State-Abington student, Eco Club), Shelly Grinar (SG, Penn State-Abington Lecturer), Richard Boyd (RB, guest with SG), Daniel Sbar (DS, Penn State-Abington student)

2. **Approval of Minutes:** The minutes from the January 9, 2019 meeting were edited and approved.

3. **Reports:**

- A. Chairperson's Report – Approved
- B. Treasurer's Report – Approved

4. **Committee Reports:**

- A. Policy – Approved
- B. Programs – Approved
- C. Engagement – Approved

5. **Active Business**

A. **Sustainable Abington/[USGBC LEED for Cities Program:](#)**

CE informed EAC that the language and requirements of the draft [LEED v4.1 for Cities and Communities beta](#) has been very challenging to comprehend. Other key points noted:

- a. Ashley McIlvaine, Communications Manager for Abington Township, will serve as the Township's liaison for the EAC and the USGBC under the direction of Rich Manfredi, Township Manager.
- b. A project planning team, to include selected township officials and organizational representatives (a LEED AP is not required) will be needed to support our potential application for a [LEED for Cities grant](#), as well as demonstrating that the Township will attend the required two-day training in Washington, D.C., and has the required staffing. The grant application is due on 3/22/19.
- c. Based on the Arc performance platform, CE has documented 17 points.
- d. Seventy (70) other cities are currently pursuing the pilot program.

PSU Abington (PS-A) Pepsi Mini Grant: Shelly Grinar (SG), PS-A Lecturer, attended our EAC meeting with three guests, including two of her PS-A undergraduate students, to offer an opportunity to collaborate on EAC sustainability projects using grant funds. Project ideas included supporting our RBTT program, workshop presentations on rain barrels or food/worm composting, park cleanups, marketing the Go Green Rewards Card Program, and supporting the LEED for Cities initiative, such as conducting a greenhouse gas inventory.

B. **Energy Initiatives:** No new discussion.

C. **Aqua PA and PFAS Contamination:** EAC discussed the Aqua PA letter that was recently mailed to customers informing them of the current PFAS contamination issue, that their current drinking water meets the current EPA health advisory level of 70 parts per trillion (ppt), and that they are seeking an alternative [non-contaminated] resource. Other key points included:

- a. U.S. Navy is currently seeking a disposal facility that will accept the PFAS-contaminated soil waste extracted from the former Willow Grove air base.
- b. PADEP extended their [open comment period](#) through 4/1 to accept public comment regarding PFAS contamination in groundwater. The EAC needs to submit our comment(s).

- c. EPA will be holding a press conference on 2/14/19 to unveil their [PFAS Action Plan](#) which will include their official policy on health advisory levels, enforcement, monitoring, and cleanup strategies.

D. Rain Barrel the Town (RBTT) project: EAC discussed the viability of the program and if we should:

- a. Focus more on policy rather than raising funds.
- b. Potentially enable PWD an opportunity to expand their Rain Check program to the suburbs with their own rain barrels and downspout planters to meet our township needs.

E. BET Abington Terrace development at YMCA: The BOC approved the motion to advertise the newly revised zoning text amendment to the BET development proposal during their meeting on 1/10. Also discussed:

- a. EAC attended the Planning Commission meeting on 1/22 and submitted a letter to the PC expressing concern for the ramifications of the zoning text amendment; particularly, the need to revise the density bonuses with EAC-recommended replacements and to not permit additional impervious coverage.
- b. SM mentioned that EAC will have an opportunity to provide comments when BET's development proposal undergoes the conditional-use hearing process.

F. Ready for 100 Campaign: NG indicated that he would like to develop a table summary of Ready for 100 initiatives using the LEED for Cities table summary as a model. EAC discussed the possibility of recruiting the help of a consultant and/or a Penn State-Abington resource.

6. **New Business**

A. EAC Network Conference: EAC members, Neal Gale and Sue Myerov, will be attending the [2019 EAC Network Conference](#) on 5/18 at Skytop Lodge (Poconos), to host two roundtable discussions:

- a. NG will lead the discussion on action plans for the Ready for 100 (Rf100) Campaign with other EAC members who signed the resolution. NG attends the Rf100 monthly meetings at the Whole Foods in Plymouth Meeting.
- b. SM will lead the discussion on PADEP's [MS4 Program](#).

B. Earth Day Events: Proposed dates for EAC participation included:

- a. **Sunday, 4/14** – Briar Bush Earth Fest (1:30-4:30 pm)
- b. **Saturday, 4/27** – Shade Tree Commission's Arbor Day

Other parks, including Crosswicks Sanctuary and Hallowell Park, were also mentioned for Spring cleanups.

C. Annual Report: Deadline to submit is 3/3.

D. Other discussions:

- a. JSo mentioned he would e-mail an update on the Edge Hill Road and Tyson Avenue Reconstruction Project which began in Fall 2018 and expected to complete by Spring 2021 for a total cost of \$20 million.
- b. Ed Miccolo, Abington Township Public Works Dept., informed Cakky that the PWD has reconfigured the flow of vehicle traffic entering the yard for recycling events in order to decrease wait time.

The meeting adjourned at 9:46 pm

Next Meeting – March 13, 2019

Acronym Key:

BOC – Board of Commissioners

EAC – Environmental Advisory Council

LEED AP – Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Accredited Professional

MS4 - Municipal Separate Storm Sewer

PADEP – Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

PFAS - per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (which includes PFOA)

PWD – Philadelphia Water Department

Rf100 – Ready for 100 Campaign

USGBC – U.S. Green Building Council