

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

1. **Call to Order:** 8:13 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: David Bell, (DB), Neil Gale (NG), Jennifer Sherwood (JS)

Others Present: Rebecca Fellerman (Historic Survey volunteer, land planning architect/resident), Dennis O'Brien (resident, alternative energy interest), John Spiegelman (JSp, Public Affairs Chair/Commissioner Ward 11), Alison Tighe (resident)

2. **Approval of Minutes:** The minutes from the February 13, 2019 meeting were approved.

3. **Reports:**

A. Chairperson's Report – Approved

B. Treasurer's Report – Approved

4. **Committee Reports:**

A. Policy – To be reviewed/approved after meeting

B. Programs – Approved

C. Engagement – Approved

5. **Active Business**

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

CE explained the STAR to LEED for Cities sustainability strategy. Commissioner Spiegelman recommended to EAC to develop a list of action items and required staff to support the program and maintain contact with Ashley McIlvaine (AM), Communications Manager for Abington Township, to stay up-to-date with meetings. CE added that AM is serving as the Township's liaison to the USGBC and has been a great asset to which Commissioner Spiegelman wholeheartedly agreed.

B. **Energy Initiatives:** CE requested that the [CDP 2019 Cities Disclosure Questionnaire](#), to identify environmental threats, greenhouse gas emissions, mitigation strategies, and targets, be discussed in next month's meeting.

C. **Aqua PA and PFAS Contamination:** Commissioner Spiegelman informed EAC that the Aqua PA [WaterFacts](#) website has been continuously updating the public on their proactive measures to reduce PFAS concentrations in groundwater, including installing new water filtration systems. However, Commissioner Spiegelman indicated that Aqua has been more reticent with feedback from the public. CE expressed the need for the EAC to submit a [comment\(s\) to Governor Wolf's PFAS Action Team](#) and JSo agreed to draft the comment with CE suggestions.

D. **Rain Barrel the Town (RBTT) project:**

a. I.Rice has resumed donation of food-grade barrels to EAC to replenish our supply of rain barrels

b. Discussed upcoming RB build event (4/13) and RB workshop at the training center (TBD in June) and Collins Nursery (5/18).

E. **BET Abington Terrace development at YMCA:** JSp will inform EAC when BET has scheduled the conditional-use hearing.

6. **New Business**

- A. **EAC Network Conference:** NG, who will be leading the Ready for 100 round table discussion at the conference on 5/18, provided a summary of attendees for his round table and has requested support from Commissioner Spiegelman on drafting Abington's Ready for 100 resolution.

- B. **Earth Day Events:** Confirmed events included:
 - a. **Sunday, 4/14** – Briar Bush Earth Fest (1:30-4:30 pm). CE proposed adding Briar Bush to the GGRC Program and made the EAC-recommended change.
 - b. **Saturday, 4/27** – Shade Tree Commission's Arbor Day
 - c. **Sat, 5/4** – NarbEarth DayOther parks, including Roychester Park, Hallowell Park, Keswick Underpass, were also mentioned for Spring cleanups with dates TBD.

- C. **Annual Report:** CE shared last edited report to EAC members before the meeting. EAC has 3/22 deadline to complete report for the BOC Public Affairs May meeting.

- D. **Montgomery Award:** 4/30 deadline for nominations. It was also mentioned that Montgomery County Planning Commission is also seeking nominations for their "Montgomery Award".

The meeting adjourned at 9:37 pm

Next Meeting – April 10, 2019

Acronym Key:

BOC – Board of Commissioners

EAC – Environmental Advisory Council

LEED AP – Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Accredited Professional

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

Rf100 – Ready for 100 Campaign

USGBC – U.S. Green Building Council