

**Abington Township
Environmental Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes for April 10, 2019**

Call to Order: 7:35 pm

Attendees:

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

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

Others Present: Rebecca Fellerman (Historic Survey volunteer, land planning architect/resident), Dennis O'Brien (resident), Ashley McIlvaine (AM, Communications Manager/Abington Township), Bill Mettler (Citizens' Climate Lobby or CCL), Paige Menton (CCL), Jessica Tholey (Parks & Rec)

1. **Approval of Minutes:** The minutes from the March 13, 2019 meeting were approved.
2. **Reports:**
 - A. Chairperson's Report – Approved.
 - B. Treasurer's Report – Approved.
3. **Committee Reports:**
 - A. Policy – Approved (Feb & Mar).
 - B. Programs – Approved.
 - C. Engagement – Approved.
4. **Bucks Mont Citizens' Climate Lobby (CCL) Presentation** – Bill Mettler (CCL) presented and requested EAC to support the [Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019 House Bill H.R. 763](#). Key points discussed:
 - a. The bill, which shows strong bipartisan support, aims to reduce carbon pollution by placing a fee (which will increase over time) on fossil fuels. Money collected from the fees will be re-allocated in equal shares to the American people.
 - b. Bill currently has 27 co-sponsors with a goal to obtain ~100.
 - c. EAC approved a motion to submit a support letter to the BOC for Congresswoman Madeleine Dean to co-sponsor House Bill H.R. 763.
5. **Active Business**
 - A. **Sustainable Abington/[USGBC LEED for Cities Program](#):**

EAC has decided not to adopt the USGBC LEED for Cities program, but may use their rating system as a guide for Abington Township's Comprehensive Plan.
 - B. **Energy Initiatives:** No major discussion.
 - C. **Aqua PA and PFAS Contamination:** PADEP extended their [open comment period](#) through 5/1 to accept public comment regarding PFAS contamination in groundwater. JSo has agreed to draft [comment\(s\) to Governor Wolf's PFAS Action Team](#) with input from EAC members by the deadline.
 - D. **Rain Barrel the Town (RBTT) project:** RB build event scheduled for 4/13 with Girl Scouts.
 - E. **BET Abington Terrace development at YMCA:** No new discussion; Commissioner Spiegelman will update as needed.
 - F. **Earth Day Events:** EAC will fund Briar Bush Earth Fest native plant sale on 4/14 with proceeds paying for our Audubon Bird Town membership.

6. **New Business**

- A. **EAC Network Conference:** NG, SM, and JSh (tentative) will be attending conference on 5/18.
- B. **Annual Report:** JW will prepare and present the EAC Annual Report to the Public Affairs Committee on 5/1.
- C. **Montgomery Award:** A list of nominations will be shared with the EAC and voted on in our May meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 pm

Next Meeting – May 8, 2019

Acronym Key:

BOC – Board of Commissioners

CCL – Citizens' Climate Lobby

EAC – Environmental Advisory Council

LEED AP – Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Accredited Professional

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

USGBC – U.S. Green Building Council