

Abington Twp Environmental Advisory Council - June 12, 2019 monthly meeting minutes

Members present: Jim Webb, Susan Myerov, Karin McGarry-Rosen, Michele Kaczalek, John Sorrentino, Cakky Evans; Associate members present: David Bell, Neal Gale
Also present: Melissa Bonasch, Ashley McIlvaine, Twp. Communications Manager

7:30 pm: Jim Webb called the meeting to order, followed by introductions.

1. Approval of minutes: May minutes not available.
2. Reports: Chairperson and Treasurer reports submitted and accepted.
3. Committee Reports: Policy, Programs, and Engagement reports submitted and accepted.
4. Active business:
 - A. C. Evans presented an update on USGBC LEED for Cities certification.
 - B. C. Evans presented an update on the CDP Cities Climate Disclosure survey process and its relationship to developing a Township Operations Sustainability Integration Plan; participated in five related webinars and is in touch with Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission to review the most recent Abington community wide greenhouse gas emissions inventory.
 - C. J. Sorrentino reported on Aqua PA and PFAS contamination; Aqua is waiting for federal or state guidance; HB 674 introduced by Rep. Murt and in committee, would amend the Pennsylvania Safe Drinking Water Act to set maximum contaminant levels.
 - D. Rain barrel program: K. McGarry-Rosen reported there are 33 barrels on hand, 8 in the works; held rain barrel workshops at Collins Nursery and Briar Bush Nature Center.
 - E. S. Myerov attended the PA Land Trust Assn. (PALTA) conference; is working with PA Audubon and PALTA on an EAC workshop scheduled for Sat., Sept. 14.
5. New business:
 - A. C. Evans announced, as referenced in her Energy and Sustainability Report, that the Twp. Comprehensive Plan (CP) is on a fast track and is scheduled for completion within the next year. There will be an environmental representative to CP Task Plan Team to be appointed within a month. A discussion ensued about what the EAC needs to do and opportunities for advocacy and environmental planning.
 - B. The BOC will vote on 6/13/19 to adopt our Ready for 100 Resolution as part of the consent agenda. There will be a Montco Ready for 100 Kickoff Event on Saturday, June 29 for current and future Montco municipal officials and EACs to share best practices and strategize planning to realize goals. In addition, the Montgomery County BOC recently voted to adopt similar goals.
 - C. Wastewater treatment plant: George Wrigley is seeking EAC representation at an energy power efficiency project presentation. Sue, John, Neal and Cakky will provide their schedules to attend.
 - D. K. McGarry-Rosen will promote the Twp. grass clipping policy in next newsletter.
 - E. Montgomery Award Ceremony, July 11th at BOC meeting: M. Kaczalek reported award letter has been drafted.
 - F. Miscellaneous: J. Webb read thank you letter from New Life for food donations;
 - A. McIlvaine said Twp. is updating its web pages--discussion on whether EAC wants to put info on Twp. page or maintain its own site, which expires July 7;
 - A. McIlvaine said she would check on location of Twp. rain barrel and clarify language for the rain barrel permit regarding optional installations.E-cycling and food collection to be held on June 15 at Florey Lane—C. Evans and S. Myerov to distribute EAC info and rewards cards and collect addresses for newsletter.
6. Next EAC meeting scheduled for July 10 at 7:30 pm.
7. Meeting adjourned at 9:08 pm.

Prepared by David Bell