

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

Call to Order: 7:30 pm

Attendees:

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

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

Others Present: Bill Bole (resident/candidate for Ward 13 Commissioner), Melissa Bonasch (MB), Ryan Genova (resident/Arcadia University instructor), Ashley McIlvaine (AM, Communications Manager/Abington Township),

1. **Approval of Minutes:** The minutes from the June 12, 2019 meeting were approved with edits.
2. **Reports:**
 - A. Chairperson's Report – No report.
 - B. Treasurer's Report – Approved with changes.
3. **Committee Reports:**
 - A. Policy – Approved.
 - B. Programs – Approved.
 - C. Engagement – Approved.
4. **Active Business**
 - A. **Sustainable Abington/[USGBC LEED for Cities Program](#):**

CE attended a USGBC LEED for Cities webinar and may join a working group that would review certification opportunities. AM shared that Manager Manfredi requested that she review other sustainability platforms (e.g. WELL, APA, etc.) that Abington may use as a general framework for sustainable practices. CE will provide her with a comprehensive list of municipal sustainability programs.
 - B. **Comprehensive Plan Updates:** Mike Thompson (Commissioner Ward 6) has selected Rita Stevens (STC Chair) to serve as the environmental representative. CP meetings are expected to commence in late July (CP committee) and August. A more extended timeframe is anticipated than originally planned.
 - C. **Energy Initiatives:**
 - [CDP 2019 Cities Disclosure Questionnaire](#) – Deadline to submit questionnaire has been extended to the end of July for all communities.
 - [Ready for 100 Resolution](#) – The BOC approved this Resolution on 6/13/19 and, on 6/29/19, a kickoff Ready for 100 (Rf100) event was held for MontCo officials and EAC. Ten MontCo municipalities, including Abington Township, have signed Rf100 resolutions. NG summarized meeting and workshops to enable discussions/strategies to build our framework and shared a plaque given to the Township for taking this proactive commitment.
 - [WWTP Power Efficiency Plan](#) – SM, JS, CE, and AM will attend a presentation on 7/17.
 - D. **Aqua PA and PFAS Contamination:** A PFAS bill has been introduced to require federal regulation of PFAS contamination levels.
 - E. **Rain Barrel program:** RB Workshops are scheduled on 9/21 at Collins Nursery at noon and 2 pm. KMR suggested we give out EAC canvas bags with RB accessories when RBs are purchased.
 - F. **Montgomery Award:** MK confirmed assigned tasks for Montgomery Award celebration with Penn Rose Properties award recipients scheduled for 7/10.
5. **New Business**
 - A. **Upcoming Events:** AT Paper Shred Event (CE, MB, and AS will participate), Pre-Night Out (“Energy” theme at EAC table will include light switch cover decorations, solar panel, promoting now is the best time to switch to 100% green electricity while prices are less than PECO and taking advantage of the Solar tax rebate

before the end of this year when rebates begin to decline, an energy bean-toss game, popcorn/canvas bag giveaway, and spotted lantern fly education/card scraper giveaways).

- B. **Communication Needs:** AM summarized proposed updates to the Abington Township website; AS to support content updates and migration.
- C. **Arcadia University student resources:** Ryan Genova (RG), an Arcadia University instructor, is interested in having the EAC engage his students with projects and/or presentations to support his sustainability-focused, service-learning undergraduate course proposed for Spring 2020. EAC may be able to collaborate with some projects and asked RG to send his course outline proposal.
- D. **Southeast PA Municipality Workshop:** SM suggested a networking opportunity for EAC at the SE PA Municipality Workshop at [The Discovery Center](#) on 9/14.
- E. **NAACP:** CE asked if EAC could make a donation towards the rental of a paper shredder for the Willow Grove NAACP's premier Unity Day September event. No decision was made, but we may vote on it in our next meeting.
- F. **Sustainable Business Network of Philadelphia:** WVWP will be presenting WV projects/collaborations (e.g. TMDL presentation) on 7/24 at Temple University's Center City campus; may be a good networking opportunity for EAC.
- G. **Stormwater Runoff:** DB observed noticeable construction sediment in stormwater runoff at the building site of ASHS during the last major storm event. AM will follow up with the appropriate township department on mitigation.

The meeting adjourned at 09:47 pm

Next Meeting – August 14, 2019

Acronym Key:

APA – American Planning Association

ASHS – Abington Senior High School

AT – Abington Township

BOC – Board of Commissioners

CDP – Carbon Disclosure Project

EAC – Environmental Advisory Council

LEED – Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design

NAACP - National Association for the Advancement of Colored People

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

Rf100 – Ready for 100

TMDL – Total Maximum Daily Load

USGBC – U.S. Green Building Council

WELL – Certification tool for advancing health/well-being in buildings

WVWA – Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association