

Abington Township

Environmental Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes for December 13, 2017

Call to Order: 7:36 pm In attendance: Jennifer Sherwood, Sue Myerov, John Sorrentino, Michele Kaczalek, Cakky Evans-Braun, Karin McGarry-Rosen, Jim Webb, Andrea Soo and Neal Gale

Guest: Kurt Wood

Minutes: The November minutes were accepted.

Chairperson's Report: The report was accepted.

Treasurer's Report: The report was accepted. John suggested that we have a future discussion regarding the Earthright account.

Committee Reports:

Policy: The report was accepted.

Programs: The report was accepted.

Engagement: The report was accepted.

Current Business:

Sustainable Abington/STAR Communities Program: An update was provided regarding the student internship at Penn State University-Abington (PSU-Abington). A candidate has been selected to fill the position. Cakky sent out her resume to the EAC. The internship is being funded by a Pepsi Challenge Mini-grant. The intern is committed to 20 hours per week of work. The intern's duties will include coordinating a student competition for developing sustainability projects, developing a marketing plan for the Go Green Rewards Card, coordinating with the Township's Economic Development Committee, gathering of additional information on the Environmental Justice section of the Township's STAR submittal and developing a plan for increasing the Township's recycling rates. Additional areas of interest were suggested including updating the EAC website and working with the Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association on the planned Sandy Run projects.

Transportation Initiatives: The Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP) contacted Cakky after last month's webinar regarding the development of an investor network for sustainable building. The webinar provided information about the availability of several funders offering grants in this area. Cakky will talk to the Township regarding their interest in pursuing said grants, specifically about solar panel placement on Township property.

Rain Barrel the Town (RBTT) project: Several orders are pending. We will need to build additional rain barrels, weather permitting. The display of one of our rain barrels at the 245 Gallery was discussed and approved. Scheduling for the 2018 rain barrel workshop series was discussed. The following locations were discussed: Briar Bush Nature Center, Abington Library, Collins Nursery, Florey Lane training Center and Roychester Park. Jim will provide Karin with a contact for the Roychester Community House. Karin will review the current price of finished rain barrels to determine if a price increase is warranted.

EAC Signs and T-Shirts: New shirts were purchased and distributed.

EAC Member Renewals: John will respond to the Township regarding his willingness to continue serving on the EAC.

PALTA Conference Planning – April 14, 2018: Planning for topics is continuing. Neal discussed an organization called Ready for 100, which is an offshoot of the Sierra Club, that is promoting community wide renewable energy production.

New Business:

Rydal Waters Review: This proposed development is to be located on the property behind and above the Whole Foods/Baederwood Shopping Center. The development calls for 85 residential structures. Sue has reviewed the current plan and will submit written comments to the Township. This proposal will be discussed at the Commissioners Meeting on December 14, 2017.

Abington Senior High School Addition Review: A new Science and Technology Building is being planned for the Abington High School. A hearing before the Planning Commission was being held while the EAC meeting was being conducted. Previously, Abington School District (ASD) Supervisor of Facilities Tom Schneider informed Cakky that the building will incorporate LEED Silver features and the Board of School Directors may be considering LEED certification. While the Township's Code Enforcement Office made a copy of the plans available to the EAC, Tom informed Cakky that it was not the final plan being presented to the Planning Commission this evening. A motion was made that the EAC make a recommendation to the Planning Commission and the Township Commissioners that the School Board should pursue LEED certification. The motion was approved. A second motion was made that the

EAC will investigate outside funding opportunities as well as offer limited funding from its own accounts to assist with LEED certification should the ASD pursue it. This motion was also passed. Sue and Cakky testified on behalf of the EAC regarding both of these recommendations.

Partner Memberships: Discussion was deferred to next month's meeting.

By-Law Review: Jenn requested that each member review the EAC by-laws and determine if any amendments are necessary.

Annual Report: Jenn requested input from EAC members by January 31, 2018.

Associate Member Nomination: Kurt Wood was nominated to be an Associate Member of the EAC. The nomination was unanimously approved.

Discussion re: EAC Meeting Schedule: A short discussion was held regarding selecting a different meeting night, one that would not fall one day before the Commissioners Meeting. No consensus was reached.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 pm

Next Meeting – January 10, 2018