

# Abington Township

## Environmental Advisory Council

### Meeting Minutes for January 10, 2018

**Call to Order:** 7:30 pm In attendance: Jennifer Sherwood, Sue Myerov, John Sorrentino, Michele Kaczalek, Cakky Evans-Braun, Karin McGarry-Rosen, Jim Webb, Andrea Soo, Neal Gale and Kurt Wood.

**Minutes:** The December minutes were accepted.

**Chairperson's Report:** The report was accepted.

**Treasurer's Report:** The report was accepted.

#### **Committee Reports:**

**Policy:** The report was accepted.

**Programs:** The report was accepted.

**Engagement:** The report was accepted.

#### **Current Business:**

**Sustainable Abington/STAR Communities Program:** Cakky provided an update on the Penn State – Abington (PSU) student intern and the Pepsi mini-grant. The intern will begin her position on January 15. A student sustainability competition is being organized via the development of new apps. PSU also wants to discuss the EAC Rain Barrel program and the Go Green Rewards program with the student teams. Dates preferred are January 22 through 24. Sue offered to represent the EAC at the meeting. John, Jenn, Andrea and Cakky also expressed interest in attending. Cakky will request information from Gary Calore so that we can focus our presentation to the students.

**Transportation Initiatives:** Sue indicated that she would try to follow up with the Township manager on the circuit trail initiative..

**Rain Barrel the Town (RBTT) project:** Karin reported that the price of supplies did not increase. Therefore, we will not increase the prices of our rain barrels.

A rain barrel build session is scheduled for April 7. Scheduling for the 2018 rain barrel workshop series was discussed. The following locations were discussed: Briar Bush Nature Center (April 15 from 1 to 4 pm), Abington Library (either June 6 or June 14), Collins Nursery (either May 5 or May 12), Florey Lane Training Center (TBD) and Roychester Park (TBD) Karin will speak with the Ambler Borough EAC regarding our rain barrel program. They are working with the Philadelphia Water Department.

**EAC By-law Review:** It appears that recommendations to revise the by-laws were drafted but never finalized. Sue will update and distribute them.

**PALTA Conference Planning – April 14, 2018:** Registration is now open. Neal indicated that the Ready for 100 organization will be presenting its community wide renewable energy production program. Neal is to present on the topic of micro-grid renewable energy programs.

#### **New Business:**

**Partner Memberships:** Jenn raised the issue of whether the EAC should consider becoming official supporting members of organizations like the TTF. A discussion followed but no agreement was reached.

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

**Officer Renewals:** The current Officers (Chair (Jenn), Vice-Chair (Sue), Treasurer (Michele) and Secretary (Jim) all agreed to retain their positions for another year. In addition, the following Associate Members were renewed: Andrea, Neal, Kurt and Joel.

**Planning for 2018 Activities:** Two upcoming events are upcoming: electronics recycling (2/24) and a paper shred event (4/14) both at Florey Lane. Earth Day Cleanup events are being planned. See the EAC agenda for dates.

**Miscellaneous:** Neal suggested that we consider creating a generic handout of what an Environmental Advisory Council is and provide them at our events. Sue agreed to work with Neal on preparing one. A discussion regarding the changes to the service learning assistance program at the Abington Senior High School has impacted some of our events. Sue agreed to reach out to the School District to re-invigorate our partnership.

The meeting adjourned at 9:24 pm

Next Meeting – February 14, 2018