

Abington Township

Environmental Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes for August 9, 2017

Call to Order: 7:32 pm In attendance: Jennifer Sherwood, John Sorrentino, Susan Myerov, Karin McGarry-Rosen and Andrea Soo. Guests: Neale Stock, David Brooks, Lyra Capunitan and Willow Neske.

Minutes: The 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 with one modification.

Engagement: The report was accepted.

Current Business:

Sustainable Abington/STAR Communities Program – John is to check with PSU-Abington's Gary Calore regarding the fall semester intern as well as the possibility of a spring semester intern. The internship includes exploring options to increase recycling, and we discussed options for working with the Township. While the Township's residential recycling rates are good, commercial recycling could be enhanced.

It was mentioned that the Ambler EAC set up a battery recycling event for their Borough.

Rain Barrel the Town (RBTT) project: Next workshop is scheduled for September 16 at Collins Nursery. There is a new contact at I. Rice, the supplier of the empty drums. So far, drum pickups continue as before.

Abington Pre-Night Out Event: Jenn thanked everyone for their assistance. The activities for stormwater management and adapting to increasing temperature

using the CUSP models, loaned to us by the Franklin Institute, went well. The activity of decorating light switch plates with energy saving messages was enjoyed by the kids coming to our booth. Also, the popcorn given out was a big attraction. Jenn will send out a survey from the Franklin Institute on the efficacy of its CUSP models.

Regional Circuit Trail Endorsement Resolution: The Circuit Trail Coalition is reaching out to the Southeastern PA municipalities to pass resolutions of support for the completion of the 750 mile regional network of trails by 2025. Susan received a sample resolution and supporting information. Sue reached out to Commissioner Kline to ask if this could be considered by the Commissioners at a future Public Works meeting. Sue will follow up.

EAC Signs and T-Shirts: Discussed the possibility of ordering EAC event signs (with our logo) and T-shirts. The signs should be made of durable material. Andrea will investigate what is available. David Brooks offered to collect designs and work on proofs for us to consider.

New Business

Composting Workshop – Discussed the possibility of doing a workshop next spring, possibly at the Briar Bush Earth Fest next May.

Other: David Brooks described a project that he is hoping to initiate on a property located on Valley Road which is for sale. He is in the process of trying to acquire the property which is zoned R-1 (residential). Approximately 1 acre of the property is covered with bamboo which acts as an erosion/sedimentation barrier. He is hoping to obtain a zoning change (i.e. mixed use) so that he can farm this property and is looking for Township support. Jenn recommended that he contact Mark Penecale as well as the Economic Development Committee, S.C.O.R.E., PASA and Commissioner Kline to discuss his project plans.

Two Abington High School students (Lyra and Willow) were observing the meeting with the idea of preparing a presentation on the purpose of the EAC and its programs. They will follow up with interviews of the EAC members.

Neale Stock, a member of the Abington Rotary, asked if the EAC could provide a speaker at their regular weekly meetings (every Thursday, at 7:15 am). Meetings are held at the Kitchen Bar Restaurant.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm

Next Meeting – September 13, 2017