

**Abington Township
Environmental Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes for August 8, 2018**

Call to Order: 7:33 pm

Attendance:

Members: Jennifer Sherwood, Sue Myerov, Michele Kaczalek, Karin McGarry-Rosen, John Sorrentino, Cakky Braun-Evans, Jim Webb

Associate Members: Andrea Soo

Guests: Jennifer A'Harrah, PSU-Abington IT intern, Lindsay Blanton of the Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association (WVWA)

Approval of Minutes: The minutes from the July 11, 2018 were approved with a correction on attendees.

WVWA Presentation – Briefing by Lindsay Blanton

Lindsay discussed the WVWA's plans to focus water quality improvements in the headwaters of the Sandy Run Creek which is located in Roychester Park. The plan is to include working with the local residents to control stormwater emanating from residential properties. WVWA has applied for grant funds from the William Penn Foundation and the PA Growing Greener program. If funding is obtained, WVWA will conduct outreach to survey interest in rain barrels and rain gardens on homeowner properties. Water quality monitoring devices have already been installed near the Sandy Run. EAC members provided suggestions for neighborhood contacts both individuals and organizations.

Reports

Chairperson's Report - Accepted

Treasurer's Report – Accepted. A discussion took place regarding a request to the Township for a possible increase in the EAC's annual budget from its current \$300. The consensus was that each member should consider what activities the EAC could undertake to enhance our mission and project what the cost and benefits to the Township would be. To be discussed at the September meeting.

Committee Reports

- A. Policy Committee Report – Accepted.
- B. Program Committee Report – Accepted. More Go Green Reward Cards will be ordered.
- C. Engagement Report – Accepted

1. Active Business

- A. Energy and Sustainability Initiatives:** Our STAR program is to undergo recertification in 2019. Cakky will again coordinate this effort. Cakky has arranged for a meeting on 8/10 with members of the Abington School Administration to discuss upcoming renovations and new construction as well as their support for STAR recertification. Jim will attend with Cakky.
- B. Rain Barrel the Town (RBTT) project:** The Fall Rain Barrel workshop will be held at Collins Nursery on 9/15 (noon and 2:00 pm). Karin reported that over 100 rain barrels have been sold this year. The barrels do not always have both bungs attached when they are picked up so we have a shortage of bungs.
- C. Go Green Rewards (GGRC) Program:** Jennifer A'Harrah has made some updates/changes to the Go Green Rewards program app she has been developing for us. She is looking for feedback. Cakky purchased GGRC window stickers for participating businesses. A motion to reimburse her for the cost of the stickers was passed.
- D. Draft Planning Commission Letter:** Sue will revise the EAC comment letter for submittal to the Township Planning Commission prior to the upcoming meeting on this proposal. It will be submitted with the full concurrence of all EAC members.
- E. Summary of Abington Pre-Night Out:** The theme for the evening was "Reduce Plastic Use". The consensus was that the theme, information provided and activities were successful. Participants seemed to be interested and appreciated getting information on reducing their environmental impact as well as the popcorn treat. It was noted that we should purchase 10 bags of popcorn for next year's event. Children seemed to enjoy the fishing activity. Additional e-mail addresses were obtained for the distribution of EAC newsletters but we are at or exceeding our capacity for our free Mail Chimp account. Jenn will discuss our situation with the Township's Public Relations Officer.

2. New Business

- A. Tookany/Tacony-Frankford Watershed Partnership, Inc. (TTFWP) Rain Garden Event:** This event is scheduled for 9/8. Karin will advertise on our Facebook page.
- B. PFNA Contamination** will be an issue on the Commissioners agenda for August 9. Cakky will attend.

The meeting adjourned at 9:54 pm

Next Meeting – September 12, 2018