

**Abington Township  
Environmental Advisory Council  
Meeting Minutes – February 11, 2015**

**Call to Order:** 7:30 In attendance: Jennifer Sherwood, Cakky Evans, Michele Kaczalek, Andrea Soo, John Sorrentino, Jim Webb, Karin McGarry-Rosen

**Minutes:** The January 14, minutes were approved as amended.

**Chairperson's Report:** The report was accepted. Members then discussed their desire to have the report focus on the items which are current priorities. This will require members to submit updates on their projects to the Chair by midnight Wednesday of the week before the next meeting.

**Secretary/ Treasurer's Report:** The treasurer's report was accepted.

**Committee Reports:**

**Administration:** The report was accepted.

**Energy and Sustainability:** The report was accepted.

**Land Planning:** The report was accepted.

**Public Relations:** The report was accepted.

**Watersheds, Storm Water, Restoration:** After a brief discussion a Motion was made and passed to have the report resubmitted with changes.

**Active Business:** **ZOC** – Jennifer Sherwood encouraged EAC members to attend ZOC meetings and submit written comments to M. Penecale. This was followed by a discussion -as to whether the Township should be more stringent in its codes than the State standards. Topic included use of trees as incentives, watershed incentives and LEED buildings.

**2014 Annual Report** – Report is in progress and will be presented at the April Public Affairs Committee meeting. Cakky Evans elaborated on the Energy & Sustainability portion of the report.

**PECO Green Region Grant** – Cakky summarized her discussion with Doug Wendell on the grant and its application to projects at Jackson Park. Cakky made the motion that if Doug Wendell wants a letter of support from the EAC when applying for the grant, we will provide one. Motion was passed. Jenn will follow up with Doug.

**Bird Town Update** – A presentation will be made at the March 4, 2015 Public Affairs Meeting requesting approval for Abington Township to apply to become a Bird Town. Wyncote Audubon Society is leading the application with support from Audubon Pa., Briar Bush Nature Center, Abington EAC and Abington High School Earth Serve students.

**Rainbarrels** – Karin McGarry-Rosen will assume the administration of the rainbarrel program. Cakky and Michele Kaczalek will retain the financial aspects of the program. Cakky will retain overall oversight of the program for now.

**New Business:**

**STAR Presentation** – Cakky presented an overview of STAR- (Sustainability Tool for Assessment and Rating) Communities. The Township must be the applicant for the program. She reviewed the purpose, history, leadership program, and cost and scholarship opportunities of the program. Cakky then made the motion that the EAC meet with Tara Wehmeyer, stating that the EAC will pay for the program if the Township will commit to it. Motion was passed. She then made the motion that the EAC would take funds from its Sustainability Account to apply for STAR if the Township will commit to it. The motion was seconded. A discussion followed and the motion passed. After further discussion Cakky made the motion that “If the Township will commit to becoming a STAR community, the EAC will commit \$1,800.00 using Sustainability Funds for one (1) or two (2) Township officials to attend the STAR Leadership Training Program in March. The EAC would support the Township in this effort. The motion was seconded and passed.

**Development and Subdivision** – The EAC has been asked to provide comments on the proposed development of Patient First and the subdivision of 720 Rhoads Avenue. Michele and Sue are reviewing these.

**Earthday Cleanups and Upcoming Events** – EAC members are to pick a date and a park for cleanup and submit their choice to Jennifer Sherwood. If volunteers from the school are needed, requests should be submitted to Mary Rogers by March 15<sup>th</sup> for April clean ups. All dates and places should be submitted to Jenn.

**Bike Plan Grant** – Let Jenn know if you are interested in becoming a stakeholder in this project.

**EAC Feedback Survey** – Karin and Cakky are preparing an internal survey for submission to members only, associate members and former associate members. Comments and/or questions are to be mailed to Karin or Abington g-mail.

**EAC PEC Conference** – Jenn recommended members watch the 45 minute webinar.

**Volunteers** – John Sorrentino proposed we attempt to extend our volunteer network by recruiting from our base of e-mails. He also suggested we merge all our e-mail lists. Jim Webb would work with John on extending our volunteer network.

**E-Cycling at Florey Lane** - Cakky requested 2 volunteers to help hand out fliers on February 21<sup>st</sup>, Jim and Karin volunteered. Canned goods will again be collected.

The meeting adjourned at 9:56

Next meeting March 11, 2015