

**Abington Township
Environmental Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes for August 14, 2019**

Call to Order: 7:38 pm

Attendees:

Members: Cakky Evans (CE), Michele Kaczalek (MK), Karin McGarry-Rosen (KMR), Sue Myerov (SM),
Andrea Soo (AS), Jim Webb (JW)

Associate Members: Neil Gale (NG), Jennifer Sherwood (JS)

Others Present: Ashley McIlvaine (AM, Communications Manager/Abington Township)

1. **Approval of Minutes:** The minutes from the July 10, 2019 meeting were approved with changes.
2. **Reports:**
 - A. Chairperson's Report – Approved
 - B. Treasurer's Report – Approved
3. **Committee Reports:**
 - A. Policy – Approved following review and updates
 - B. Programs – Approved
 - C. Engagement – Approved
4. **Active Business**
 - A. **Sustainable Abington/USGBC LEED for Cities Program:**

A motion was approved by the EAC to renew the USGBC membership which expires on 9/13/19. AM will submit the membership fee for the 2020 township budget. The EAC will also need to determine if we want to proceed with USGBC LEED for Cities 2020 assessment and re-certification which will need to be added to the 2020 township budget.
 - B. **Comprehensive Plan Updates:** An extended 18-month timeframe is anticipated to develop the updated CP.
 - C. **Energy Initiatives:**
 - CDP 2019 Cities Disclosure Questionnaire – CE submitted 2019 CDP Questionnaire on 8/1/19.
 - Ready for 100 Resolution – The EAC discussed networking with other EACs/affiliates on how to promote energy efficiency/green electricity.
 - WWTP Power Efficiency Plan – SM, JS, CE, and AM attended the presentation on 7/17.
 - Summary of PECO Incentives & Programs to Reduce Energy Use & Costs – CE briefly reviewed these opportunities and AM will follow-up on whether the Library LEDs used these discounts.
 - D. **Aqua PA and PFAS Contamination:** Nothing to report.
 - E. **Rain Barrel program:** RB Workshops are scheduled on 9/21 at Collins Nursery at noon and 2 pm. The EAC will discuss logistics during next month's EAC meeting (September 2019).
 - F. **Pre-Night Out review and comment:** Had an overall successful EAC event that helped educate the public on energy savings, solar energy, rain barrels, the spotted lanternfly (SLF), and reducing plastics while engaging the younger audience with fun games and prizes.
 - G. **Recap of website discussion:** AS will serve as the EAC liaison for the township website relaunch and lead the effort to migrate EAC information back to the main website.
5. **New Business**
 - A. **Upcoming Events:** See 4E for 9/21 RB Workshop. SM reminded and encouraged the EAC to attend the SE PA Municipality Workshop at The Discovery Center, co-sponsored by Audubon PA, PA Land Trust Association, and PEC, on 9/14 for a great networking opportunity.
 - B. **Instagram account for EAC:** A motion was approved to establish an EAC Instagram account.
 - C. **Engagement Report:** SM volunteered to replace JS in preparing the monthly updates for the engagement report.

- D. **EAC by-laws update:** SM informed the EAC that our EAC by-laws do not require township approval. Other key points are noted below:
- Must review/update by-laws by our December EAC meeting.
 - R. Manfredi will provide recommendations on how EAC should document their rules and procedures.
 - EAC should consider a defined succession plan that would enable volunteers to progress from student volunteer (if applicable) to associate member, and finally to full member.
- E. **Spotted Lanternfly (SLF):** AM informed the EAC that USDA Federal funds are available to quarantined municipalities/townships (like Abington) to inspect private/public properties for SLF infestations. AM is looking for volunteer groups to search and destroy egg masses this coming fall and shared a SLF poster we can use to distribute and educate the public.
- F. **Defoliated private property issue:** Ward 5 Commissioner Luker appealed to the EAC for input on a private property that was defoliated by the owner after receiving complaints about his overgrown lawn. CE will ask Commissioner Luker how EAC can support him.

The meeting adjourned at 09:57 pm
Next Meeting – September 11, 2019

Acronym Key:

CDP – Carbon Disclosure Project

EAC – Environmental Advisory Council

LEED – Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design

PFAS - per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (which includes PFOA)

Rf100 – Ready for 100

SE PA – Southeast Pennsylvania

SLF – Spotted Lantern Fly

USGBC – U.S. Green Building Council