

**Abington Township
Environmental Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes for October 16, 2019**

Call to Order: 7:38 pm

Attendees:

Members: Cakky Evans (CE), Michele Kaczalek (MK), Karin McGarry-Rosen (KMR), 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 August 14, 2019 meeting were approved.
2. **Reports:**
 - A. Chairperson's Report – Approved
 - B. Treasurer's Report – Approved
3. **Committee Reports:**
 - A. Policy – Approved
 - B. Programs – Approved
 - C. Engagement – Approved
4. **Active Business**
 - A. **Sustainable Abington/USGBC LEED for Cities Program:**

AM confirmed the membership renewal 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:** No new updates.
 - C. **Energy Initiatives:**
 - CDP 2019 Cities Disclosure Questionnaire – Nothing to report.
 - Ready for 100 Resolution – A Request-for-Proposal (RFP) for a set of municipalities (including Abington Township) in Montgomery County has been prepared to solicit proposals from qualified firms to provide energy conservation/efficiency and renewable energy planning services to support the Rf100 resolution. CE/NG welcome comments which are due by 9/12.
 - WWTP Power Efficiency Plan – Nothing to report.
 - 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; logistics discussed. KMR suggested that we should make residents pay up front for rain barrels to avoid abandoned orders (orders completed, but never paid/picked up).
 - F. **EAC Website Update:** AM has continued to work on migrating pertinent information from EAC's external website to the relaunched township website. AM will continue to coordinate with AS on updating info.
5. **New Business**
 - A. **Spotted Lantern Fly (SLF) strategy:** AM shared the SLF memorandum summarizing the 8/22 township meeting that discussed SLF treatment and the USDA's SLF control program. The township plans to replicate the USDA control program and include volunteer assistance for the eradication of SLF eggs wherever possible, including on the dominant host tree, "Tree of Heaven".
 - B. **Baederwood Residential Properties development:** SM possesses the plans for this residential development and is seeking comments before the next Planning Commission meeting that will have this on their agenda.
 - C. **Abington-Jenkintown Connection Project:** Seth Cooley is a Jenkintown resident who appealed to the EAC to challenge the connection project which proposes numerous pedestrian/stormwater improvements (installing stormwater pipes, sidewalks, shared-use paths, etc.) along Washington Ln, Greenwood Ave, Jenkintown Rd, and Meetinghouse Rd. SC is concerned by the lack of communication to the area residents and believes the proposed changes will destroy the natural landscape, including historic street trees. EAC/township will review

options on how to advertise/educate the public and further engage the project engineer on discussing proposed plans with the residents.

- D. **2020 Budget:** EAC will receive a \$300 annual budget and AM will plan to add \$8,000 for the RFP for implementing the Rf100 resolution for 2020.
- E. **Winter road salt application:** DB expressed concern with the township over-salting our roadways during the winter season which will negatively impact our streams. EAC will review how we can address this issue with the township and their contractors.
- F. **WVWA update:** Alex Cupo (AC) provided an update on the WVWA housing audits; 17 homes around Roychester Park were audited, rain barrels were purchased through EAC, and recommendations will be proposed (e.g. bioswales, flow-through planters/rain barrels, other green infrastructure) for targeted homeowners.

The meeting adjourned at 10:11 pm

Next Meeting – October 16, 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

RFP – Request-for-Proposal

SE PA – Southeast Pennsylvania

SLF – Spotted Lantern Fly

USDA – U.S. Department of Agriculture

USGBC – U.S. Green Building Council

WVWA – Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association