

**Abington Township  
Environmental Advisory Council  
Meeting Minutes for January 8, 2020**

**Call to Order:** 7:33 pm

**Attendees:**

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

Associate Members: Jennifer Sherwood (JSh)

Others Present: Loren Gildar (resident), Ashley McIlvaine (AM)

1. **Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from the December 2019 meeting were approved.
2. **Amendments to the Agenda** – No changes
3. **Reports:**
  - A. Chairperson’s Report – Approved
  - B. Treasurer’s Report – Approved
4. **Committee Reports:**
  - A. Policy – Approved
  - B. Programs – Approved
  - C. Engagement – Approved
5. **Active Business**
  - A. **Sustainable Abington/[USGBC LEED for Cities Program](#):** CE/AM will be attending the [2020 Bank of America Grant](#) webinar on 1/10 to review guidelines and help make an informed decision on submitting an application for certification and receiving a support grant.
  - B. **Comprehensive Plan Updates:** AM will share feedback after the Township consolidates public comments on the CP. CE recommended that EAC prepare a prioritization document to discuss in our next meeting. SM will serve as the EAC liaison for the CP.
  - C. **Development Plan Reviews:** SM presented a new development plan by JSF Management for a Self-Storage facility on Easton Rd. SM will prepare comments on the proposed plan and share it with the EAC before the plan is discussed in front of the Planning Commission.
  - D. **Energy Initiatives:**
    - CDP 2019 Cities Disclosure Questionnaire: CDP sent a letter to EAC providing recommendations on how we can improve our current “awareness” rating.
    - Rf100 Resolution – Southeast Rf100 posted all of their presentations and panels [publicly](#) for careful study and follow-up.
    - Solar Plan – CE/NG may be in talks with Sebastian Zawierucha of Solar States (solar installer) on proposing a community solar plan.
    - Climate Collaborative of Greater Philadelphia (CCGP) – CE is recommending that the Township joins the CCGP as a participating partner which will help provide more resources to assist in developing our Rf100 strategy.
    - CE will be inviting Jordan Brunette of State Senator Haywood’s office to present the Senator’s policy objectives and hear our concerns.
  - E. **Rain Barrel program:** KMR will be doing an updated RB inventory.
  - F. **Abington-Jenkintown Connection Project:** No new discussion.
6. **New Business:**
  - A. **Covanta trash disposal contract** – While we are in a 60-day extension with our current trash incinerator contractor, there may be negotiations to identify a new contractor for Abington Township trash.
  - B. **Strategic Planning** – EAC will review and re-organize strategic planning categories and leaders.
  - C. **By-Law Discussion:** AM relayed selected comments by Township Manager, R. Manfredi, on our EAC by-laws, but we will wait on receiving the complete recommended changes. JW will renew as Chair through 2021 and KMR has agreed to serve as Vice Chair for 2020.

- D. **Speaker request from ARCATS (Alverthorpe Retired Citizens of Abington Township)** – ARCATS contacted MK to request an EAC speaker to introduce who EAC is and what we do. JW recommends inquiring further on their intentions and will make a decision on our participation.
  - E. **Annual Report** – JW will circulate a draft Annual Report template for EAC members to provide input and updates.
  - F. **Township GIS application**– AM will serve as the project manager for the soon-to-be acquired ESRI GIS application package for the Township. JSo will serve as the EAC liaison and will participate in the preliminary meeting with ESRI representatives to discuss our objectives.
  - G. Loren Gildar, a local resident who is concerned with climate change, attended our meeting to learn who we are and offered to support us, where needed.
7. **Citizens' Comments** – None to report.

The meeting adjourned at 10:19 pm

Next Meeting – February 12, 2020

**Acronym Key:**

ARCATS – Alverthorpe Retired Citizens of Abington Township

AT – Abington Township

CCGP - Climate Collaborative of Greater Philadelphia

CDP – Carbon Disclosure Project

CP – Comprehensive Plan

EAC – Environmental Advisory Council

ESRI – Environmental Systems Research Institute

GIS – Geographic Information Systems

LEED – Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design

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

Rf100 – Ready for 100

SE PA – Southeast Pennsylvania

USGBC – U.S. Green Building Council