

**Abington Township
Environmental Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes for March 11, 2020**

Call to Order: 7:32 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: Neal Gale (NG)

Others Present: Alex Cupo (Water Programs Coordinator/Wissahickon Trails; formerly Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association/WVWA),
Ashley McIlvaine (AM, AT Communications Manager)

1. **Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from the February 2020 meeting were approved.
2. **Amendments to the Agenda** – None
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 noted that the in-person orientation program in Washington, D.C. has now been scheduled instead as a remote WebEx meeting. CE/AM will meet on 3/16 to discuss prerequisite deliverables.
 - B. **Comprehensive Plan Updates:** A draft CP outline was developed, but SM/AM will monitor for updates.
 - C. **Development Plan Reviews:** SM discussed draft comments to the 1051/1053/1057 Easton Road Development plan sent to EAC members on 3/9. STC will evaluate any proposed tree removals and replacements. Final EAC/STC comments will be provided for review during the next relevant Planning Commission meeting.
 - D. **Energy Initiatives:**
 - CDP 2019 Cities Disclosure Questionnaire: The CDP Disclosure Platform will be opening in April 2020 and due on 7/1.
 - Rf100 Updates – NG met this week with Cheltenham Township to finalize the Energy Transition Plan template which will be in parallel with the Montgomery County group effort.
 - E. **Rain Barrel program:** KMR noted that EAC is prepared to pick up more donated rain barrels (when available). EAC would like to promote RB events via AM through the BOC weekly packets whereby commissioners can include them in their individual newsletters.
 - F. **Abington-Jenkintown Connection Project:** AM noted that McMahon Associates and PennDOT will need to revamp the proposed stormwater infrastructure plan before moving forward. AT will be reviewing potential funding opportunities for the multi-use corridor on Washington Lane, Jenkintown Road, Greenwood Avenue, and Meetinghouse Road. AM will continue to monitor progress.
 - G. **Covanta contractor** – The Public Works committee will be voting on exercising the three-month extension option with Covanta (trash incinerator contractor) during their meeting tomorrow (3/12).
 - H. **PFAS contamination** – BOC tabled signing the document for Aqua to purchase Cheltenham Township’s water treatment system. M. Thompson (Ward 6 Commissioner) noted that Aqua must define and prioritize their treatment strategy.
 - I. **Friends of Pennypack Park (FOPP)** – The FOPP have lost their liability insurance after being sued several years ago because of an accidental drowning in Pennypack Creek. The FOPP have now appealed to the EAC to be an ally to sponsor them for the Good Samaritan Sponsorship.

6. **New Business:**

- A. **Climate Collaborative of Greater Philadelphia (CCGP)** – CE will present a summary of CCGP benefits during the Public Affairs meeting scheduled on 4/1.
- B. **Drexel University Opportunity for Engagement** – CE took LEED for Cities crosswalk resources and highlighted potential projects and methodologies for Drexel students to collaborate with EAC/Abington Township on LEED for Cities priorities. The discussion was pared down to four proposed options for students which will be reviewed by all parties.
- C. **Annual Report** – Nothing to report.
- D. **EarthFest at Briar Bush** – AS will support J. Sherwood (EAC associate member) with the native plant sale/swap and KMR will support the RB workshop with additional volunteers, as needed.
- E. **Montgomery County Award** – MK is calling for all nominations which are due by May 1.
- F. **Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association Update** - Alex Cupo (AC) provided an update on the following items:
 - **Rebranding** – WVWA has rebranded as [Wissahickon Trails](#) (WT) with a new website and newsletter.
 - **Roychester Park**: Lindsay Blanton (LB/Water Programs Manager at Wissahickon Trails), AC, and JW had a conference call to discuss proposed activities and community involvement using the Growing Greener grant at Roychester Park. WT would like to enlist the help of EAC, STC, Abington Township, and/or other local groups for this effort.
 - **Stream Smart Stormwater House Call Program** – This program is kicking off with a Silver Ave block party and WT has invited EAC to host a table to promote EAC’s mission and related activities.
- G. **Senator Haywood Environmental Awareness Events** – Jordan Brunette, District Director for the 4th Senate District, informed EAC that their office is proposing several Environmental Awareness Events, including one for Earth Day. The Office has invited EAC and relevant local community groups to participate once they are scheduled.

7. **Citizens’ Comments** – None to report.

The meeting adjourned at 9:36 pm

Next Meeting – April 15, 2020

Acronym Key:

AT – Abington Township

BOC – Board of Commissioners

CCGP - Climate Collaborative of Greater Philadelphia

CDP – Carbon Disclosure Project

CP – Comprehensive Plan

EAC – Environmental Advisory Council

FOPP – Friends of Pennypack Park

LEED – Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design

PennDOT – Pennsylvania Department of Transportation

RB – Rain barrel

Rf100 – Ready for 100

USGBC – U.S. Green Building Council

WT – Wissahickon Trails (formerly Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association)

WVWA – Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association