

**Abington Township
Environmental Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes for May 13, 2020**

Call to Order: 7:31 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: David Bell (DB), Neal Gale (NG), Jennifer Sherwood (JSh), Kurt Wood (KW)

Others Present: Ashley McIlvaine (AM, AT Communications Manager), David and Agnes Shafie (residents)

1. **Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from the March 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 – Deferred approval to June 2020 meeting
 - B. Programs – Approved
 - C. Engagement – Approved
5. **Active Business**
 - A. **Sustainable Abington/[USGBC LEED for Cities Program](#):** CE reviewed the LEED for Cities Crosswalk spreadsheet which was color-coded to emphasize priorities and order of importance of outcomes/actions for EAC.
 - B. **Comprehensive Plan Updates:** SM explained that the mission/vision statement is still being developed and that a list of suggestions for improvement will be shared by CE.
 - C. **Development Plan Reviews:** Nothing to report as the township has imposed a moratorium on all construction until further notice.
 - D. **Energy Initiatives:**
 - CDP 2019 Cities Disclosure Questionnaire: Nothing to report.
 - Rf100 Updates – NG reported that the energy transition plan is complete and will be shared for final comments; meeting to be scheduled in one to two weeks.
 - E. **Rain Barrel program:** KMR announced that all RB workshops have been canceled due to the Coronavirus threat. Current RB orders are on hold until the weather improves. EAC discussed the possibility of doing live online workshops and supporting it with a pre-recorded RB installation video on our website. Format and dates to be determined.
 - F. **Montgomery Award Nominations:** EAC discussed the option of postponing the award until lockdown restrictions are lifted or to proceed with the award in an online format. EAC will confer with Commissioner Spiegelman (Ward 11) on what the BOC suggests. EAC will continue to invite new nominees.
6. **New Business:**
 - A. **Climate Collaborative of Greater Philadelphia (CCGP)** – After the Public Affairs meeting in April was canceled, CE suggested amending the CCGP resolution to increase greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction goals (i.e. achieve an overall goal of an 80 percent community-wide greenhouse gas emissions reduction from the 2005 baseline by 2050). AM emphasized that EAC will need to demonstrate the plan’s feasibility and identify measurable goals.
 - B. **Drexel University Opportunity for Engagement** – CE reported that Drexel did not respond to engagement opportunities. CE will reach out to them again.
 - C. **Annual Report** – CE and others will provide additional edits/comments to the report.
 - D. **Montgomery County Award** – Due date for nominations have been moved from May 1 to June 1.
7. **Citizens’ Comments** – None to report.

The meeting adjourned at 9:34 pm

Next Meeting – June 10, 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

FB – Facebook

GHG – Greenhouse gas emissions

LEED – Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design

RB – Rain barrel

Rf100 – Ready for 100

USGBC – U.S. Green Building Council