

**Abington Township
Environmental Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes for August 12, 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: Neal Gale (NG), Jennifer Sherwood (JSh), Kurt Wood (KW)

Others Present: Ashley McIlvaine (AM, AT Communications Manager)

1. **Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from the July 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:** AM/CE held a Zoom call with the USGBC contact (Dave Abell) to discuss LFC&C Crosswalk questions for the USGBC LEED for Cities Grant.
 - B. **Comprehensive Plan Updates:** The next meeting is scheduled on 8/18 to discuss CP updates. EAC will review and recommend selected [tools and resources](#) that could be incorporated into the CP process and seek feedback from the planning team.
 - C. **Development Plan Reviews:** SM reviewed a minor land development plan by New Life Presbyterian Church to add approximately 1,300 square feet of additional space in part to accommodate an elevator to meet ADA standards. SM provided a draft memo to the EAC to recommend the conversion of some existing parking spaces to green space (e.g. adding native grasses/trees, landscaping, and vegetated islands) to help offset stormwater runoff. Moved to approve the EAC memo summarizing recommendations for the New Life Church development plan; seconded without dissent.
 - D. **Energy Initiatives:**
 - [CDP 2019 Cities Disclosure Questionnaire](#) – CE informed EAC that we are working on emissions targets.
 - [Rf100 Updates](#) – NG informed EAC that he will continue to participate in weekly meetings to refine the Rf100 energy transition plan until November, at which time all stakeholders will be included in the discussion. AM suggested that EAC develop a spreadsheet outlining topics, stakeholders, and points-of-contact to facilitate discussions and feedback. A team of five EAC members and associates are being trained to develop an Energy Transition Plan to begin strategizing how to accomplish the [Township Rf100 Resolution](#).
 - [Climate Collaborative of Greater Philadelphia \(CCGP\) Resolution: An Initiative to Accelerate Effective Climate Actions](#) – Rita Stevens provided STC input to the [proposed resolution](#) which EAC approved and CE submitted for the 8/13 BOC meeting agenda.
 - [PA DEP Local Climate Action Program \(LCAP\) Opportunity](#) – Abington Township and the Montgomery County Consortium of Municipalities were both selected as two of the 20 PA jurisdictions to receive free extensive training and student support to conduct ICLEI Clearpath GHG Community Inventories during fall 2020 and complete community Climate Action Plans during spring 2021. CE prepared a summary for the BOC weekly update on 8/7.
 - E. **Rain Barrel program:** KMR suggested another virtual rain barrel workshop on 9/17.
6. **New Business:**
 - A. **Draft EAC Equity Statement** – CE will be drafting a new EAC equity statement.
 - B. **COVID-19 Built Environment Re-entry Procedures and Resource Recommendations Memo** – EAC reviewed the draft memo to boost Abington Township’s COVID-19 planning, including building re-entry safety protocols,

promoting community “safety first” practices, and inform policy makers on gaps in the [PA Reopening Plan](#). EAC advised that CE confer with Tom McAnaney (AT Emergency Management Coordinator) to share resources, then report findings in our next EAC meeting before providing formal recommendations to the Township.

- C. **2021 Calendar and 2020-2021 Fall/Winter Activities Guide Review** – JW provided AM with relevant meetings/dates for the 2021 calendar. Photos may still be sent to JW for the calendar.
- D. **Approval of development plan review comment letter** - See 5C.

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm

Next Meeting – September 9, 2020 ([virtual](#))

Acronym Key:

ADA – American Disabilities Act

AT – Abington Township

BOC – Board of Commissioners

CCGP - Climate Collaborative of Greater Philadelphia

CDP – Carbon Disclosure Project

CP – Comprehensive Plan

EAC – Environmental Advisory Council

GHG – Greenhouse gas

ICLEI - International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives

LCAP – Local Climate Action Program

LEED – Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design

LFC&C – LEED for Cities and Communities

PADEP – Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

RB – Rain barrel

Rf100 – Ready for 100

STC – Shade Tree Commission

USGBC – U.S. Green Building Council