

**Abington Township
Environmental Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes for October 14, 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: Jennifer Sherwood (JSh), Neal Gale (NG), Kurt Wood (KW)

Others Present: Nathan Vasserman (Technology Officer, Abington Township), Jeremy Turk (Abington resident, Climate Scientist)

1. **Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from the September 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 participated in two training webinars and may delegate specific tasks to other EAC members, as needed.
 - B. **Comprehensive Plan Updates:** Nothing to report.
 - C. **Development Plan Reviews:** 1231 Susquehanna Road development plan will be under review by the Shade Tree Commission (STC).
 - D. **Energy Initiatives:**
 - CDP 2019 Cities Disclosure Questionnaire – CE discussed Science-Based Targets (SBTs) for climate which is a resource developed by a network of organizations (collectively called SBTN) to help cities take action to help reduce global warming.
 - Rf100 Updates –EAC members met with Township Manager, Rich Manfredi, who will identify key decision makers, staff, and stakeholders to provide input into developing a strategic energy plan. Manager Manfredi indicated that he would like to have monthly follow-up progress meetings.
 - Climate Collaborative of Greater Philadelphia (CCGP) Resolution: An Initiative to Accelerate Effective Climate Actions – Nothing to report.
 - PA DEP Local Climate Action Program (LCAP) Opportunity – CE attended a public session on 10/7. GHG data has been requested, but much has not yet been received.
 - Draft Equity Statement – EAC will be sharing our draft statement with Abington for Peace, a local group of activists advocating for peace, equality, and inclusion in Abington Township.
 - Update on LfC Pandemic Pilot Credits and Built Environment Re-Entry Procedures and Resource Recommendations – Nothing to report.
 - E. **Rain Barrel program:** KMR and JW discussed the boy scout project to do a RB build before the end of the season.
6. **New Business:**
 - A. **Hunter Soccer Field Conversion Development Plan** - SM presented details on the Hunter Soccer field proposal to transform grass to synthetic turf, along with associated engineering controls. SM has requested that EAC review and comment on the draft EAC recommendations to improve stormwater and/or pollution management practices in the proposal.
 - B. **Susquehanna and Old York Road Redevelopment Plan** – SM attended the AT Planning Commission meeting on 9/22 which discussed details of an area at the intersection of Old York Road and Susquehanna Road that will

need to be certified as “blighted” before a redevelopment proposal can be prepared by the Montgomery County Redevelopment Authority (MCRDA).

- C. **Audubon Bird Town Virtual Summit and Bird-Window Collision Prevention Event** – JSh announced two upcoming events that EAC will be supporting:
 - Preventing Window Collisions Event – 10/22 at 7 pm
 - Audubon Bird Town Summit – 10/24 at 10 am
 - D. **EAC Township Email Account** – EAC discussed our options on how to transition from our EAC gmail account to our new AbingtonPA.gov email account which will cost \$48 annually with aliases. EAC decided to continue using our AbingtonEACRainBarrels@gmail.com account for rain barrel-related communication until further notice.
 - E. **LEED for Cities Budget Request** – CE informed EAC that our membership will expire on 1/31/21 and we will need to amend our budget with AT to accommodate the \$1,500 to renew.
 - F. **Shade Tree Commission Draft Master Plan** – Rita Stevens emailed a draft presentation to JW/SM featuring their Master Tree Plan for review before discussing it during a 10/21 virtual meeting.
7. **Citizens’ Comments** – Abington resident and climate scientist, Jeremy Turk, commented that some of our climate efforts/initiatives could be funneled up to the SBTs.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm

Next meeting – November 18, 2020 ([virtual](#))

Acronym Key:

AT – Abington Township

CCGP - Climate Collaborative of Greater Philadelphia

CDP – Carbon Disclosure Project

CP – Comprehensive Plan

EAC – Environmental Advisory Council

GHG – Greenhouse gas

LCAP – Local Climate Action Program

LEED – Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design

RB – Rain barrel

Rf100 – Ready for 100

SBT – Science-Based Targets

SBTN – Science-Based Targets Network

USGBC – U.S. Green Building Council