

**Abington Township  
Environmental Advisory Council  
Meeting Minutes for November 18, 2020**

**Call to Order:** 7:49 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), David Bell (DB)

Others Present: Akilah Chatman (AC, Drexel University LCAP intern), Ashley McIlvaine (AM, AT Communications Manager), Grace Sekelewski (GS, AT Assistant), Rita Stevens (RS, Shade Tree Commission)

1. **Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from the October 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](#):** As there is currently no progress with AT convening a sustainability team to work the AT LFC&C Crosswalk Project Plan, AT will need to decide if they have the capacity to move forward.
  - B. **Comprehensive Plan Updates:** CE/SM attended the CP team meeting tonight to discuss the Environmental Management Section of the Comprehensive Plan. Michael Narcowich (MCPC Assistant Section Chief and planning consultant/advisor) has asked the EAC to submit comments before the next team meeting on 12/8. RS has also asked EAC to collaborate on recommendations with the STC.
  - C. **Development Plan Reviews:**
    - SM prepared a letter to the AT Planning Commission stating that the EAC cannot provide comments for the 1231 Susquehanna Road development plan until we receive additional information about current site conditions and proposed stormwater control measures. CE motioned to approve the letter; motion was unanimously approved.
    - SM submitted the Hunter Soccer Field comment letter to the AT Planning Commission. No further movement at this time.
  - D. **Energy Initiatives:**
    - CDP 2019 Cities Disclosure Questionnaire – CE provided a snapshot summary explaining that AT received a “C” or “Awareness” score for its 2020 CDP Cities Disclosure questionnaire. CE also asked EAC members to review the new Science-Based Targets (SBT) Cities Guide for applicability.
    - Rf100 Updates – No further movement since meeting with Township Manager, R. Manfredi, on 9/22. However, CE has asked the EAC to review a section of the 2011 AT Energy Audit that could be incorporated into the AT Draft Energy Transition Plan.
    - 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 introduced Akilah Chatman who is our Drexel University LCAP intern that will be entering collected GHG data into the Master Data Workbook and ICLEI ClearPath tool. CE/AC have continued to attend various webinars and training related to the LCAP. The next step is to process and review the data.
  - E. **Rain Barrel program:** KMR noted that 109 RBs have been sold this year; 1,003 RBs have been sold to date. Our Eagle Scout candidate initially built 53 RBs with his team on 11/7; some problem areas exist which will need to be corrected.
  - F. **LEED for Cities Budget Request** – AM noted that AT will be able to accommodate our \$1,500 request for recertification.

6. **New Business:**

- A. **Clean Energy Program Speakers for Future EAC Meetings** – JW noted that a separate time/session will be required for any future EAC speakers so as not to impact the length and continuity of our monthly EAC meetings. Proposed speakers for 2021 may be discussed in our December meeting.
- B. **Impact of Committee of the Whole Process for EAC Policy, Planning, and Program Initiatives** – CE announced that all future EAC matters must now go through the Committee of the Whole, led by Commissioner Tom Hecker (Ward 1), to facilitate additional resident and other stakeholder feedback, collaboration and interaction, and to determine the course of action through the relevant committee and/or the Board of Commissioners. SM requested that AT provide a formal directive on the steps required to bring forth an EAC matter and the necessity of the Township to inform all commissions, councils, and committees of this new process.
- C. **2021 Proposed Budget Strategic Plan Initiative** – To be discussed in the December meeting.
- D. **EAC Budget and use of remaining funds** – The Community Energy Plan for Prosperity and Resilience (CEPPR) opportunity has asked each of the 30 participating EACs to provide additional funding so that the program can customize energy transition plan designs for each municipality. CE moved to approve the EAC providing \$100 to cover related community engagement templates for our AT Energy Transition Plan. Motion was unanimously approved.
- E. **Triangle Garden update and sponsorship possibilities** – KMR moved to approve reimbursement to JSh for costs associated with restoring the Triangle Garden at Huntingdon Pike/Cedar Rd; motion was approved. EAC will continue to leverage commissioners on recruiting volunteers for future beautification/upkeep of such public spaces.
- F. **New [EAC@AbingtonPA.gov](mailto:EAC@AbingtonPA.gov) email account** – CE reported that this government account has been helpful in receiving workshop and event discounts and quick responses to greenhouse gas data from agencies such as SEPTA.
- G. **Penn State Green Infrastructure Webinar Series and Status of Township Stormwater Management Study/Report** – CE asked to bring this to the EAC's attention as a way to assist the Township in prioritizing and maximizing green infrastructure for stormwater management. SM informed the EAC that this webinar series should be promoted to developers responsible for the development/redevelopment of AT. EAC will discuss this tool further in our December meeting, along with our 2021 Strategic Plan.

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:38 pm

Next meeting – December 9, 2020 ([virtual](#))

**Acronym Key:**

AT – Abington Township

CCGP - Climate Collaborative of Greater Philadelphia

CDP – Carbon Disclosure Project

CEPPR – Community Energy Plan for Prosperity and Resilience

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

MCPC – Montgomery County Planning Commission

PA DEP – Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

RB – Rain barrel

Rf100 – Ready for 100

SBT – Science-Based Targets

USGBC – U.S. Green Building Council