

**Abington Township
Environmental Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes October 14, 2015**

Call to Order: 7:32 In attendance: Jennifer Sherwood, Cakky Evans, Michele Kaczalek, Susan Myerov, Andrea Soo, John Sorrentino, Jim Webb
Guest: Nicholas Macelko, Dianne Sembello

Minutes: The report was accepted.

Chairperson's Report: The report was accepted.

Secretary/ Treasurer's Report: The treasurer's report was accepted.

Committee Reports:

Administration: The report was accepted.

Energy and Sustainability: The report was accepted.

Land Planning: The report was accepted. EAC Comments for Zoning Code Update have not been submitted yet. Sue Myerov will submit currently drafted version. Additional comments can be submitted at a later date.

A motion was made and passed to amend the agenda to add "Other Business" after New Business.

Public Relations: The report was accepted.

Watersheds, Storm Water, Restoration: The report was accepted. Sue summarized the Villanova Watershed Workshop she attended on October 13, 2015.

Current Business: **Go Green Rewards Card** – Meadowbrook Farms will give a Rewards' Card member who has earned 10 points the same discount as a PHS member. There will not be a coupon book. Cakky Evans met with the EDC and stated that Wendy Klinghoffer of EMCC will help promote the Rewards Card. A new flier is needed with Company names and logos of companies participating in the program. These will be added to our website.

STAR – Cakky requested that Jim Webb work on ECHO plug in data. Cakky will send information to Sue and Jim. GIS data will be given to John Sorrentino and Andrea Soo. Cakky will continue to work with Amy Hopf on Built Environments. Work is needed to catch up on base elements of STAR.

Rain Barrel Program – Jim will pick up an additional 13 barrels. The EAC will continue to stockpile over the winter. 4 barrels were sold at the Meadowbrook Open House demonstration.

AT Paper Shred Event – Rewards Card will be credited for those who bring canned food to the event.

Energy Expo - Cakky reported that Jeff Lane will be returning to do a presentation. Solar City will also present. Cakky will speak with people at DVRPC who would guide us through the procedure to become a solar ready community and will ask Paul Macht to spearhead the project. An Abington resident who has geo thermal will summarize his experience with the product. Jim will put PECO data together. Raffle items will need to be purchased using last year's list.

Other Business:

Volunteers needed – Jennifer Sherwood announced scheduled work days at Crosswicks Audubon Sanctuary, the TTFWP Ethel Jordan Park tree planting and the STC Roslyn Street Tree Planting. Volunteers will earn Go Green Rewards Points.

Master Bike Plan – Group discussed merits of presentation to EAC by township consultant on the draft MBP, which is currently in 60 day public review comment period. Cakky suggested that we contact township to ask if consultant can attend. Sue will reach out to Scott Marlin to request that consultant present summary at November meeting. Cakky will provide a hard copy of the draft plan to Sue who will review it prior to the November meeting..

Land Planning – Sue summarized the meeting held by the Montgomery County Planning Commission on Establishing Green and Sustainable Parking Lots. Also attending the meeting were Cakky, Rita Stevens and Larry Matteo. The County Planning Commission would be willing to present at Abington BOC meetings.

Energy – Cakky proposed that the Township be approached to apply for the Smart Growth Technical Assistance. Consensus was that concentration should remain on STAR this year.

Compact of Mayors (COM) – Cakky recommended that the EAC send a letter to the COM via Wayne Luker to have Abington Township participate with other cities in reducing local greenhouse gases. Presentation would be made to Public Affairs. Sue will try to determine what work and how much time would be involved. Cakky will talk with Drew Shaw to determine if Penn students can do the work. Is data readily available to obtain and could Township personnel do it. EAC membership would not be able to fulfill the required commitment at this time.

Watersheds – John suggested that unassigned EAC members and associates be part of a subcommittee. Individuals should think about which committee they would want to be on. He will discuss solidifying the volunteer program with Jim Webb. It was also suggested that a person with Parks and Recreation should coordinate volunteers to do clean ups.

Evergreen Manor Park – Diane Sembello expressed concern about the wooded portion around Willow Hill. Trees are dying and invasives overrun area. Area needs work.

Jenn suggested contacting Shade Tree Commission regarding the trees. Sue noted this park was included as part of a spring site visit with representatives from Temple University, Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association and Abington Parks and Recreation to evaluate possible stream restoration and stormwater management project. Project proposal for stormwater management at Evergreen Manor Park was submitted to PA DEP Growing Greener program.

The meeting adjourned at 9:58

Next Meeting – November 18, 2015