

**TOWNSHIP OF ABINGTON**

**(4) PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**April 6, 2016  
7:00 P.M.**

**CALL TO ORDER**

**ROLL CALL: SPIEGELMAN – BOWMAN – SCHREIBER – ROTHMAN –  
KALINOSKI**

**Township Manager LEFEVRE  
Assistant Township Manager WEHMEYER  
Township Solicitor CLARKE  
Director of Parks and Recreation WENDELL**

**MINUTES:**

**Motion to approve the minutes of the March 2, 2016 Public  
Affairs Committee Meeting.**

**Economic Development Committee Report – Call on Doug Callantine**

**Environmental Advisory Council Report – Call on Jenn Sherwood**

**Parks and Recreation Report – Call on Doug Wendell**

**PA1. Resolution No. 16-016 – Fair Housing**

**Motion to adopt Resolution No. 16-016. Annual Fair Housing  
Resolution to further Fair Housing practices within the Township  
of Abington.**

**PA2. Substantial Amendment to the Community Development Block  
Grant**

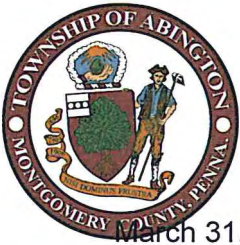
**Motion to advertise the Public Hearing on the Substantial  
Amendment to the Community Development Block Grant  
scheduled for 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, July 14, 2016 in the 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Floor Board Room of the Abington Township Administration  
Building, located at 1176 Old York Road, Abington.**

**PA3.        Resolution No. 16-017 – Supporting the Grant Application to DCNR for the Development of the Natural Resources in the Ardsley Wildlife Sanctuary**

**Motion to approve Resolution No. 16-017 which supports the application to the DCNR for a grant to improve the natural habitat in the Ardsley Wildlife Sanctuary.**

**PA4.        House Bill 340 (PN 2947)**

**Motion to request State Representative Dean's support in opposing House Bill 340 in its present format.**



Wayne C. Luker, President  
Steven N. Kline, Vice President  
Michael LeFevre, Manager  
Jay W. Blumenthal, Treasurer

March 31, 2016

1176 Old York Road Abington PA 19001-3713 Telephone: 267-536-1000

Wayne Luker, President  
Abington Township Board of Commissioners  
1176 Old York Road  
Abington, PA 19001

Subject: 2015 EAC Annual Report

Dear President Luker and the Board of Commissioners,

As required by Code section 10-7, the Abington Township Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) is submitting the enclosed 2015 EAC Annual Report. 2015 proved to be a wonderful year. Accomplishments include:

- ★ Enhancing sustainability and partnerships with key Abington stakeholders through the STAR Communities™ Leadership program (received a 75% scholarship)
- ★ Initiating a partnership with the Economic Development Committee to launch the Go Green Rewards Card program, the first municipal program in the USA to incentivize both environmental protection and a “buy local” campaign
- ★ Providing outreach programs to enhance compliance with the Township MS4 stormwater permit requirements
- ★ More than doubling the number of rain barrels placed in the community
- ★ Advising on township initiatives such as the Zoning Ordinance Rewrite and Master Bike Plan
- ★ Improving open space through beautification and clean-up events
- ★ Becoming an Audubon Bird Town

Additional information on EAC projects and activities can be found at our website [www.eac-abington.org](http://www.eac-abington.org) or our Facebook page (Abington.EAC).

The EAC thanks the Board of Commissioners and the township staff for its gracious support. If you have questions or environmental needs in your ward, please contact any EAC member. The EAC can provide information, advise on policies, coordinate a project, or help find funding, volunteer labor or other resources. We look forward to continuing to serve our entire community and helping Abington go green.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Sherwood  
Chairperson  
Abington Township Environmental Advisory Council

Cc: Board of Commissioners  
Michael LeFevre, Manager  
Tara Wehmeyer, Assistant Manager  
Doug Wendell, Parks and Recreation  
Larry Matteo, Code Enforcement  
Ed Micciolo, Public Works  
Michael Barron, Engineering Department  
Wastewater Utilities

Kevin Barron, Finance Department



[www.abington.org](http://www.abington.org) TTY/TTD: 9-1-1 Fax: 215-884-8271



## Abington Township Environmental Advisory Council

### 2015 Annual Report

#### Summary

During 2015, the Abington Township Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) enhanced sustainability, protected water, addressed environmental issues, improved open space, educated residents on environmental issues, and provided students with numerous service learning opportunities.

Significant accomplishments were spearheading Abington Township's STAR Communities™ Leadership Community membership, creating partnerships with key stakeholders to engage in effective triple bottom line (economic, environmental and social) sustainability initiatives, assisting the township's zoning ordinance update and Master Bike Plan efforts, providing MS4 storm water and rain barrel public education and outreach, creating and maintaining riparian buffers, holding Earth Day and park cleanup events, and hosting educational workshops. The council achieved success by engaging over 400 community volunteers, who gave more than 1400 hours of service, valued at \$28,000.

In 2016, the EAC will promote energy and sustainability initiatives using the STAR Communities™ program, advance the township's zoning rewrite effort, review land development plans, assist with watershed projects and MS4 stormwater public education, and host community events and public workshops. The EAC will continue its role as an advisory body to the township on environmental issues, including support of resource conservation, environmental restoration, energy and sustainability initiatives, and public events.

#### 2015 Members (appointed by the Board of Commissioners)

Jennifer Sherwood (Ward 3): Chairperson since February 2011, February 2004-December 2018

Cakky Braun-Evans (Ward 1): Vice Chairperson, February 2010 - December 2018

Michele Kaczalek (Ward 2): Secretary/Treasurer, March 2002 - December 2018

Susan Myerov (Ward 12): February 2011 – December 2016

Andrea Soo (Ward 12): January 2014 – December 2016

John Sorrentino (Ward 13): December 2011 – December 2014

Jim Webb (Ward 10): January 2014 – December 2016

2015 Associate Members: Karin McGarry Rosen, Joel Schilling, Alan Jalon, Nicholas Macelko, Jane Straub.

## **Objectives**

As stated in the Code of Abington Township, section 10-8, the Environmental Advisory Council supports the following objectives:

1. Identify environmental problems.
2. Recommend plans and programs to the appropriate agencies for the promotion and conservation of the natural resources and for the protection and improvement of the quality of the environment within the area of the municipality.
3. Make recommendations as to the possible use of open land areas of the municipality.
4. Promote a community environmental program.
5. Keep an index of all open areas, publicly or privately owned, including but not limited to flood-prone areas, swamps and other unique natural areas.
6. Advise the appropriate local governmental agencies in the acquisition of property, both real and personal.
7. Undertake such environmental tasks as requested by the governing body of the municipality.

These objectives were supported by the many diverse projects and activities summarized below.

## Enhancing Sustainability



Three EAC members represented Abington Township, one of eight municipalities selected for the STAR Communities™ Spring 2015 Leadership Community Program, at the Washington, DC training kick-off.

### Leadership STAR Community Program

After examining international, national, state, and regional sustainability programs, the EAC advised the Township to participate in the [STAR Communities™](#) (Sustainable Tools for Assessing and Rating) program. The Township received a 75% scholarship for the [Spring 2015 Leadership STAR Community Program](#), and the EAC funded the remaining 25% from its Rain Barrel The Town program. STAR Communities™ is nation's first framework and independent verification and certification program for municipalities to evaluate and identify gaps and prioritize investment to address sustainability. The one-year scholarship provides support and services to work through the [STAR Community Rating System™](#) to measure and benchmark Abington's sustainability. By providing a clear, data-driven approach to assess social, economic and environmental conditions, [STAR Community Rating System™ metrics](#) act as a catalyst for local action to transform the way our community can come together to create a transparent roadmap for sustainability.

Built Environment	Climate & Energy	Economy & Jobs	Education, Arts & Community	Equity & Empowerment	Health & Safety	Natural Systems
Ambient Noise & Light	Climate Adaptation	Business Retention & Development	Arts & Culture	Civic Engagement	Active Living	Green Infrastructure
Community Water Systems	Greenhouse Gas Mitigation	Green Market Development	Community Cohesion	Civil & Human Rights	Community Health & Health System	Invasive Species
Compact & Complete Communities	Greening the Energy Supply	Local Economy	Educational Opportunity & Attainment	Environmental Justice	Emergency Prevention & Response	Natural Resource Protection
Housing Affordability	Industrial Sector Resource Efficiency	Quality Jobs & Living Wages	Historic Preservation	Equitable Services & Access	Food Access & Nutrition	Outdoor Air Quality
Infill & Redevelopment	Resource Efficient Buildings	Targeted Industry Development	Social & Cultural Diversity	Human Services	Indoor Air Quality	Water in the Environment
Public Spaces	Resource Efficient Public Infrastructure	Workforce Readiness		Poverty Prevention & Alleviation	Natural & Human Hazards	Working Lands
Transportation Choices	Waste Minimization				Safe Communities	

[Link to the STAR Community Rating System™ Framework](#)

Last May, the Rydal-Meadowbrook Civic Association's Community Summit, held annually at Penn State Abington, introduced the STAR Communities™ program to the public. Presenters included ATFD Fire Service Administrator Dave Schramm, AT Economic Development Committee Chair Doug Callantine, AT Shade Tree Commission Chair Rita Stevens, Abington School District Educational Foundation Chair Phyllis Jablonowski, and STAR Communities™ Built Environment and Economy and Jobs Technical Advisor (and Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission Senior Planner) Emily Costello, and EAC member Cakky Evans. STAR Communities™ participation led the EAC to advance local partnerships and initiate new participation in community programs. With both the Abington School District and the Briar Bush Nature Center, these partnerships led to successfully applying to the U.S. Green Building Council's pilot programs for the

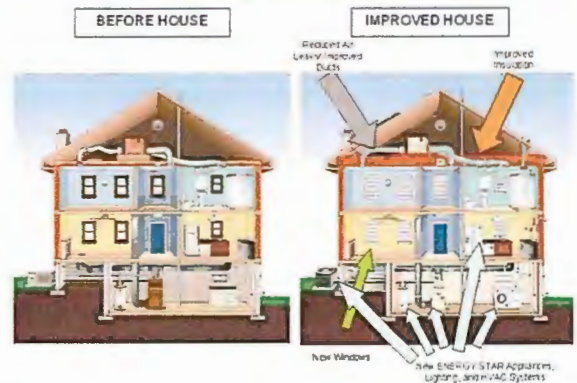
Center for Green School's Sustainability Curriculum. Partnering with the Economic Development Committee led to the launch of the "Go Green Rewards Card" shop local program. Moreover, in November, Penn State Abington became a STAR Communities™ affiliate university, which has advanced this collaboration to enhance Abington's sustainable future.

## Buildings and Energy Efficiency

Buildings consume nearly half of all energy produced in the United States. As the building sector accounts for nearly half (44.6%) of U.S. CO2 emissions, buildings stand as the largest contributor to climate change.\* Most of these emissions come from the combustion of fossil fuels for heating, cooling, lighting, and powering electrical equipment. Modest investments in energy-saving technologies create environmentally responsible buildings and communities that are more profitable and healthier places to live and work, while reducing CO2 emissions.

\*Source: US Energy Information Administration 2012

**Don't let money fly out your windows, roof, wallet, doors and more**



The EAC continued to educate the public on energy conservation measures and green building technology to improve indoor air quality, water efficiency, and to save energy expenditures.

Our third Annual EAC Energy Savings Expo, a "fright night" experience to "Banish the Vampires that Suck Your Energy," once again presented a whole house approach to energy conservation and efficiency, home-energy audits and air sealing, and alternative and renewable energy (specifically geothermal HVAC, heat pumps, and solar photovoltaic). In addition, the 2015 Expo added Abington based business owners who presented on smart home technologies (such as fault detection) and Net Zero Energy homes.

The presenters included Abington based-businesses Paul Macht Architects and Geek Tech Support Services and nearby AGL Spray Foam and Jackson Geothermal, as well as Solar City and an Abington resident sharing his positive experience with switching to geothermal energy.

Information was provided on how to receive local rebates and the federal Residential Renewable Energy Tax Credit (30% back for installing solar, wind, fuel cell or geothermal systems) and how to switch to green electric suppliers through EAC Associate Member Joel Schilling's [MakeBenProud.com](http://MakeBenProud.com) website. View the presentations at [this link](#).

### **Banish the Vampires That Suck Your Energy**

Go Green this Halloween at the EAC's Energy Savings EXPO

Find Your Key to Saving Money by Saving Energy Attend Our Third Annual Energy Savings EXPO!

Thursday, October 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM - 8:45 PM (Great Door Prizes too!) Abington Free Library, 1030 Old York Road, Abington, PA 19001

★ Best Cost Energy Improvements ★ Tax Credits ★ Rebates ★ Energy Audits ★ Geothermal ★ Solar ★ Energy Improvements' Return On Investment ★ Zero Net Energy Homes ★ Smart Home Technology Protect Your Home from Phantom Plug Loads and Energy Vampires

☆ Learn how Abington residents have saved up to 40% on their fuel bills through low-cost energy efficient upgrades such as Insulation or air sealing and geothermal and solar ☆ Energy Efficient Door Prizes!

For more information call 215-576-5111 or email [EAC.Abington@gmail.com](mailto:EAC.Abington@gmail.com)



## Incentivizing "Go Green" and "Buy Local" To Grow Our Community

In 2015, the EAC teamed up with the Economic Development Committee and local businesses to launch the "Go Green Rewards Card." This new program incentivizes and rewards citizens to take environmental actions and shop locally to grow our community. By taking helpful environmental actions, such as volunteering or attending events with the EAC, Shade Tree Commission, the Planning Commission's Historic Buildings Inventory, the Energy Saving Expo, a rain barrel workshop, or a Township Master Bike Plan meeting, citizens earn points on their **Go Green Rewards Card**. Earning 10 points results in discounts at participating businesses such as Keswick Cycle, the Keswick Theater, Collins Nursery, Primex Garden Center, Meadowbrook Farm, GeekTech Support Services, U-Swirl, David's Asian Bistro, Acker's True Value Hardware, and Thunderbird Lanes. Equally important, the program drives Abington consumers to local businesses. Local businesses contribute more to municipal services and public schools than non-local businesses. According to national studies, 68% of dollars spent at a local business return to the municipality or school district. STAR Communities™ has noted that Abington is the first U.S. municipality to create a buy local and go green rewards incentive.

### Green actions that earn points:

- ★ Attend an EAC or STC meeting or event (1 point)
- ★ Donate food item(s) at a Township Public Works electronic recycling or paper shred event (1 point)
- ★ Volunteer for an EAC or STC program (2 points)
- ★ Install a rain barrel, rain garden or STC tree, or make your yard Audubon Bird Habitat (2 points)
- ★ Reduce greenhouse gas emissions when you:
  - 🚗 Drive a green vehicle OR switch to 100% clean energy (visit [MakeBenProud.com](http://MakeBenProud.com)) (5 points)
  - ☀️ Install solar or geothermal at your home or business (10 points!)



### WHY BUY LOCAL?



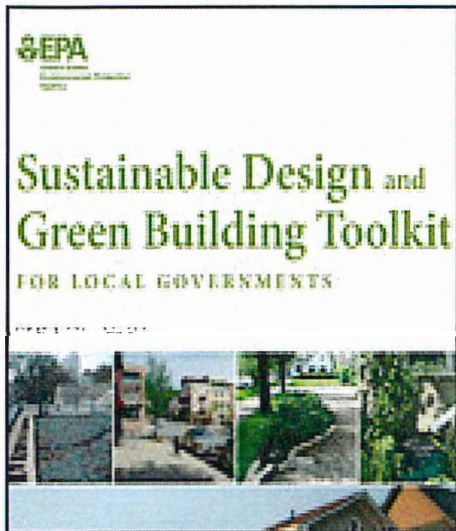
### Choose Local Businesses Taking Action For A Healthy Community

- ★ Strengthens the local economy
- ★ Local Owners Are Local Contributors
- ★ Local Businesses Offer Stable Employment
- ★ Independent Businesses Maintain Uniqueness
- ★ Money Spent Locally Stays Local
- ★ Tax Revenue Goes Further
- ★ Enhances workforce development
- ★ Lessens Environmental Impact

### Buy Local and Grow Our Community

*\$100 spent at an Abington business returns \$68 to our community through taxes, payroll, and other related expenditures to support municipal services and public schools*





### **Zoning Ordinance Draft**

The EAC continued to evaluate the second draft of the zoning ordinance update to identify additional provisions that would promote and reward best practices to reduce the impact of development and redevelopment on natural systems, such as minimizing the footprint of new buildings. By utilizing the US EPA's *Sustainable Design and Green Building Toolkit for Local Governments*, the EAC continues to work closely with township staff and the Planning Commission and contribute to the zoning rewrite process by providing information to help evaluate codes/ordinances to create a more environmentally, economically, and socially sustainable community.

### **Master Bike Plan**

Bicycling instead of using a car reduces fossil fuel consumption, reduces pollution, reduces car traffic, and can improve health. Since all of these benefits enhance sustainability, the EAC was excited to support the township's Master Bike Plan development. The EAC encouraged citizens to participate and provided comments to the township.

### **Historic Resources Survey**

Preserving history also enhances sustainability. EAC members inventoried properties for the Abington Township Historic Resources Survey, a project of the Heritage Conservancy, Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission, the Bureau for Historic Preservation, and the AT Planning Commission.



*Commissioners Gillespie, Jones, Hecker and Schreiber labeled storm drains to remind us that whatever goes into storm drains goes into creeks (the water is not treated).*

## **Protecting our Water**

### **Supporting PA Stormwater Management Act 167 & MS4 Permit Requirements**

Since 2003, municipalities such as Abington with municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4) are mandated by the federal Clean Water Act to develop, implement, and enforce a stormwater management program. The program must be designed to reduce the discharge of pollutants from the municipality's MS4 to protect water quality and to satisfy the appropriate water quality requirements of the federal Clean Water Act. The EAC has worked with the Wastewater Utilities Department to help meet Wissahickon watershed requirements. To assist the township's Engineering Department with meeting MS4 goals, the EAC has helped educate the public and helped to make stormwater management more affordable for residents and businesses.



*A very successful Eagle Scout project helped "Rain Barrel The Town" meet demand*

The MS4 permit requires “Public Education and Outreach” and “Public Involvement and Participation” activities. The public program goals are to raise awareness of stormwater issues, to enhance participation in stormwater programs, and to encourage citizens and businesses to take action to help mitigate stormwater problems. The EAC has aided this effort by offering stormwater educational workshops and rain barrel programs to homeowners and businesses. These efforts have helped them understand and comply with stormwater ordinances.

To help make stormwater management more affordable for residents and businesses, the EAC developed the “Rain Barrel The Town” (RBTT) program to offer inexpensive rain barrels. Begun with grant funding, the RBTT program has now been self-funded since 2013. Proceeds from the rain barrels have been used to improve open space in Abington parks, to act as matching funds for grants, and to support sustainability initiatives such as the STAR Communities™ program. Volunteers construct the rain barrels from donated, repurposed material. In 2015:

- 144 barrels were completed and placed in the community (more than twice that sold in 2014), bringing the total to 402 RBTT barrels placed since 2012 (which is 2% of owner occupied homes in the township)
- Volunteers provided over \$15000 of in-kind services, including 768 volunteer hours.
- Over 120 people attended six rain barrel/watershed education workshops:
  - Briar Bush Earth Day Fest, April 19
  - AT Arbor Day Celebration at Grove Park, April 25
  - Roslyn Library, June 8
  - AT Florey Lane Public Safety Training Center, July 18
  - Collins Nursery, September 19
  - Meadowbrook Farm, October 10
- RBTT benefited AT’s Town Watch by donating a rain barrel for the Pre-Night Out raffle
- RBTT reached over 5,000 people through community events, social media and internet materials, Channel 43 announcements, commissioner newsletters, and outreach during all five of the Township’s Public Works e-cycling and paper shredding events
- Additional partners included I. Rice and Company, Zentis Sweet Ovations, Youth Aid Panel, Abington School District, AT Refuse and Recycling Department, and the AT Public Safety Training Center, and community volunteers.



*“Streamkeeper” volunteers monitor water quality in our local watersheds*

## **Monitoring Natural Resources – Water Quality**

Abington Township lies within 3 watersheds: Tookany/Tacony-Frankford (TTF), Pennypack and Wissahickon. Several watershed organizations in our area are part of a larger collaborative partnership to improve water quality in our region as part of the *Delaware River Watershed Initiative*. With funding assistance provided by the William Penn Foundation, local organizations are monitoring water quality to show the effectiveness of restoration and stormwater management projects. This “Streamkeepers” monitoring project, which began in summer 2014, trained community volunteers to make monthly observations and conduct chemical tests. The EAC is monitoring West Baeder Creek (in TTF) and Harper’s Run (in Pennypack).



*Volunteers helped TTF Watershed Partnership create a riparian buffer at Ethel Jordan Park.*

## **Creating and Maintaining Riparian Buffers**

Riparian buffers are areas of specialized vegetation along waterways that act like sponges to slow down and filter stormwater running off the land, before it enters the stream. This vegetation typically has long root systems and is specifically adapted to our climate and soil conditions. While slowing stormwater runoff velocity and filtering pollution, riparian buffers can help reduce pollution and sediment in streams to help meet MS4 requirements. Riparian buffers also help stabilize streambanks from erosion, provide habitat for wildlife, are more diverse than lawn, and are aesthetically pleasing. Once established, they require less maintenance than highly manicured areas like lawn. Riparian buffers provide services essential to a healthy environment.

Working with diverse partners, the EAC helps protect the township’s numerous stream systems by creating or supporting the creation of riparian buffers in the township. On November 6 and 7, the EAC assisted the Tookany/Tacony Frankford Watershed Partnership (TTFWP) with creating a riparian buffer along the Jenkintown Creek in Ethel Jordan Park. The volunteers created 10,500 square feet of stream buffer and planted ornamental trees throughout the park.

Volunteers planted over 260 native trees and shrubs. View

<http://tffwatershed.org/2015/11/10/now-thats-a-community-planting-day/>

The EAC and partners also help maintain several existing riparian buffers. Volunteers have removed non-native invasive plants, thus removing competition and encouraging the native species to thrive. Native plant species support the natural interdependency of the local food web. Non-native species do not support this interdependency of animals and plants. Removing non-native plants, many of which are considered invasive, also prevents non-native species from spreading further. Maintenance on existing buffers included:

- On the campus of Abington Junior High School, along the East Baeder Creek (in the TTF watershed), an important headwaters tributary to the Tookany Creek, with TTFWP (lead), Abington School District, Abington Junior High Green Thumbs Club.
- In Roslyn Park, along the Sandy Run (in the Wissahickon Watershed) with Abington High School Service Learning and Boy Scouts.
- In Roychester Park, along the Sandy Run (in the Wissahickon watershed) with Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, ASD service learning students, Roychester Community House Association and neighbors.

### **Ardley Wildlife Sanctuary Drainage**

The EAC supported the AT Shade Tree Commission's efforts to modify the Tyson Ave/Edge Hill Rd drainage design within the Ardsley Wildlife Sanctuary. This effort will preserve mature forest within the sanctuary and will help reduce volume and velocity of the stormwater runoff.

### **USACE Flood Studies**

The EAC participated in reviewing the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Cheltenham Flood Study as it pertains to Abington Township. The EAC supported the township's request to have the USACE do a separate flood study for Abington.



*State Senator Haywood, Commissioner Schreiber and volunteers sprucing up open space*

## **Improving Open Space**

Partnering with the Township and community groups, the EAC helped improve open space by hosting beautification and clean-up events at parks, roadways, and other public open spaces.

During the spring, 18 Earth Day events:

- 244 volunteers spent 738 hours cleaning up 1455 pounds of trash from 73 acres and planting 413 flowers and trees.
- Results were reported as part of the Great American Cleanup of PA, a project of Keep America Beautiful.

During the autumn, 15 events:

- 158 volunteers (103 were youth) spent 270 hours cleaning up 442 pounds of trash from 28 acres and planting 320 trees, shrubs and flowers.
- Results were reported as part of the Ocean Conservancy's International Coastal Cleanup.

Partners included Keep America Beautiful, Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful, PennDOT, AT Parks & Recreation Department, AT Refuse & Recycling Department, AT Shade Tree Commission, Abington residents, Abington High School service learning students, ASHS H2O For Life club, AJHS Green Thumbs Club, Boy Scouts, Cheltenham EAC, Commissioner DiPlacido, Girl Scouts, Glenside United Church of Christ, Friends of Hallowell Park, Friends of the Keswick Avenue Underpass Garden, McKinley Elementary School, Rydal Meadowbrook Civic Association, Meadowbrook Bird Sanctuary, Primex Garden Center, Tookany/Tacony Frankford Watershed Partnership, Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association, and Wyncote Audubon Society.



*Commissioner Hecker and Roychester Park volunteers*

## **Educating the Public**

One of the EAC's goals is to inform the public about environmental issues that affect us all. In addition to the Energy Expo and the Stormwater/Rain Barrel workshops, the EAC supported many other outreach events.

- Supported township efforts such as the Master Bike Plan, the Planning Commission's Historic Resources Survey and other local and regional opportunities.

- Partnered with Wyncote Audubon Society and ASHS Earth Serve Club to help Abington Township become an Audubon Bird Town and lead efforts to improve our environment.
- Supported Briar Bush Nature Center's master site planning development.
- Hosted environmental information tables at the Abington Pre-Night Out, Briar Bush Nature Center events, and several elementary school spring fairs.
- Organized food donation collections for local food cupboards at the AT Public Works Electronic Recycling and Paper Shred events
- Encouraged people to switch to green source energy through MakeBenProud.com
- Assisted the AT Shade Tree Commission with April 25 Arbor Day celebration at Grove Park.
  - Organized a park litter cleanup.
  - Presented a rain barrel workshop.
  - Hosted environmental information tables.



*Commissioner Markman presented the 2015 Montgomery Award to the volunteers of the Redeemer Valley Community Garden*

## **Montgomery Award**

In honor of former EAC chairperson Robert Montgomery Jr., the Abington Township Montgomery Award is given each year to an individual or group who has improved Abington's environment. In 2015, the award was presented to the Redeemer Valley Community Garden. The volunteers, Sister Ana Dura and the Sisters of the Holy Redeemer were honored for promoting hope and healing through healthy food and living, growing organic produce using sustainable practices, growing food to donate to food cupboards, supporting local farmers markets and involving the community. [Redeemervalleygarden.com](http://Redeemervalleygarden.com). Please send nominations any time using the form available on the EAC website.

## **2016 Plans**

The EAC will continue to build on its successful collaboration with the township and other partners to support policies, plans, education, events and projects that contribute to a sustainable, healthy, energy-efficient environment. The EAC will provide environmental programming that is of interest and value to the community. The challenges will be to become a more sustainable community, to engage more citizens to live sustainably and reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to continue to improve the environment.

To meet these challenges, the EAC will continue the township's outreach and documentation for the Leadership STAR Community Program and pursue certification and participate in the [STAR Communities™ Leading Indicators Pilot](#), which will begin during spring 2016. This pilot program will provide an annual transparent framework to measure and benchmark 21 leading indicators of sustainability. With the anticipated help of Penn State Abington in 2016, the EAC seeks to accomplish the goals of STAR certification and to create a sustainability plan built on civic engagement, continuous quality improvement, and best practices. This will enhance our community's environmental, economic, and social aspirations while positioning the township as a future model for sustainable living.

The EAC will continue to work closely with township staff to provide education and outreach for stormwater management to help the township meet its MS4 stormwater permit requirements. The EAC will help build community support for innovative green stormwater infrastructure projects.

In our charge to "recommend plans and programs...for the promotion and conservation of the natural resources and for the protection and improvement of the quality of the environment," the EAC will examine best practices and opportunities to spur sustainability that encompass economic, environmental, and social performance measures for both local government and the broader community.

The EAC will continue engaging the public, schools, businesses and organizations in sustainability, environmental issues, and watershed initiatives and community events. The EAC stands ready to serve the commissioners and their constituents. We look forward to making Abington a better, greener place to live.

**Sign up for our e-newsletter by emailing [EAC.abington@gmail.com](mailto:EAC.abington@gmail.com)**

**Visit our website: [www.eac-abington.org](http://www.eac-abington.org)**

**Like us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Abington.EAC>**

**Follow us on Twitter: [AbingtonEAC](#)**

**Find us via the Abington Township website:  
<http://www.abington.org/government/boards-and-commissions>**

**Donate to the Abington Township Green Program via [www.eac-abington.org](http://www.eac-abington.org)**



**BOARD ACTION REQUEST**

**PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

April 6, 2016

**DATE**

*PA1*

**AGENDA ITEM NUMBER**

**DEPARTMENT**

**AGENDA ITEM**

**TOWNSHIP MANAGER**

Community Development

*VBS*

Resolution No. 16-016  
Fair Housing

*me*

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**PREVIOUS ACTIONS**

None

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**RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION**

Motion to adopt Resolution No. 16-016. Annual Fair Housing Resolution to further Fair Housing practices within the Township of Abington.

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**COMMENTS**

**TOWNSHIP OF ABINGTON  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

**FAIR HOUSING - RESOLUTION NO. 16-016**

**LET IT BE KNOWN TO ALL PERSONS** of the Township of Abington that discrimination in the sale, rental, leasing, financing of housing or land to be used for construction of housing, or in the provision of brokerage services because of race, color, religion, ancestry, sex, national origin, handicap or disability is prohibited by Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (Federal Fair Housing Law) and the Pennsylvania Human Act. It is the policy of the Township of Abington to implement programs to ensure equal opportunity in housing for all persons regardless of race, color, age, familial status (families with children) religious creed, ancestry, sex, national origin, handicap or disability, use of guide or support animals because of blindness, deafness or physical handicap of the user or because the user is a handler or trainer of support or guide animals, or because of an individual's sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression. Therefore, the Township of Abington does hereby pass the following resolution.

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that within available resources the Township of Abington will assist all persons who feel they have been discriminated against because of race, color, age, familial status (families with children) religious creed, ancestry, sex, national origin, handicap or disability, use of guide or support animals because of blindness, deafness or physical handicap of the user or because the user is a handler or trainer of support or guide animals, or because of an individual's sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression to seek equity under federal and state laws by filing a complaint with the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Township of Abington shall publicize this Resolution and through this publicity shall cause owners of real estate, developers, and builders to become aware of their respective responsibilities and rights under the Federal Fair Housing Law, the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act, and any local laws or ordinances.

**FURTHER PUBLICITY** will at a minimum include, but not to be limited to: (1) the printing and publicizing of this resolution and other applicable fair housing information through local media and community contracts: (2) distribution of posters, flyers, and any other means which will bring to the attention of those affected, the knowledge of their respective responsibilities and rights concerning equal opportunity in housing.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** April 14, 2016.

**ABINGTON TOWNSHIP**

**ATTEST:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Wayne C. Luker, President  
Board of Commissioners

\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael LeFevre, Secretary

**BOARD ACTION REQUEST**

**PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

April 6, 2016

**DATE**

*PA 2*

**AGENDA ITEM NUMBER**

**DEPARTMENT**

**AGENDA ITEM**

**TOWNSHIP MANAGER**

Community Development

*VBS*

Substantial Amendment

Community Development Block Grant

*net*

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**PREVIOUS ACTIONS**

None

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**RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION**

Motion to advertise the public hearing on the Substantial Amendment to the Community Development Block Grant scheduled for 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, July 14, 2016 in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Board Room of the Abington Township Administration

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**COMMENTS**

**BOARD ACTION REQUEST**  
**Public Affairs**

4/6/2016

Date

PA3

Agenda Item Number

DEPARTMENT

Parks & Recreation



AGENDA ITEM

Resolution Supporting the  
Grant Application to DCNR for  
The development of the natural  
Resources in the Ardsley Wildlife  
Sanctuary.

TOWNSHIP MANAGER



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PREVIOUS ACTIONS

At their March 6, 2016 Board meeting, The Board of Commissioners approved of the Bureau of Parks and Recreation and the Abington Township Shade Tree Commission's submitting an application for the improvement of the Ardsley Wildlife Sanctuary.

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RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION

Motion to approve Resolution # 16-017 which supports the application to the DCNR for a grant to improve the natural habitat in the Ardsley Wildlife Sanctuary.

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COMMENTS

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources requires that a resolution in support of the grant application be included in the application. See attached resolution.



RESOLUTION PAGE

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA www.dcnr.state.pa.us/grants

Table with application information: DCNR-2015-C2P2-16, Applicant/Grantee Legal Name: Abington Township, Project Title: Development of Ardsley Wildlife Sanctuary, Abington Township, Montgomery County, Web Application ID: 1101063

WHEREAS, Abington Township

("Applicant") desires to undertake the following project

Development of Ardsley Wildlife Sanctuary, Abington Township, Montgomery County; and (Project Title)

WHEREAS, the applicant desires to receive from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources ("Department") a grant for the purpose of carrying out this project; and

WHEREAS, the application package includes a document entitled "Terms and Conditions of Grant" and a document entitled "Grant Agreement Signature Page"; and

WHEREAS, the applicant understands that the contents of the document entitled "Terms and Conditions of Grant," including appendices referred to therein, will become the terms and conditions of a Grant Agreement between the applicant and the Department if the applicant is awarded a grant; and

NOW THEREFORE, it is resolved that:

- 1. The "Grant Agreement Signature Page" may be signed on behalf of the applicant by the Official who, at the time of signing, has TITLE of President, Board of Commissioners.
2. If this Official signed the "Grant Agreement Signature Page" prior to the passage of this Resolution, this grant of authority applies retroactively to the date of signing.
3. If the applicant is awarded a grant, the "Grant Agreement Signature Page", signed by the above Official, will become the applicant/grantee's executed signature page for the Grant Agreement, and the applicant/grantee will be bound by the Grant Agreement.
4. Any amendment to the Grant Agreement may be signed on behalf of the grantee by the Official who, at the time of signing of the amendment, has the TITLE specified in paragraph 1 and the grantee will be bound by the amendment.

I hereby certify that this Resolution was adopted by the Board of Commissioners of Abington Township (identify the governing body of the applicant, e.g. city council, borough council, board of supervisors, board of directors)

of the applicant this 14th day of April, 2016, Resolution No. 16-017

Michael LeFevre Secretary (Signature of the Secretary of the governing body) President, Wayne C. Luker

DCNR USE ONLY

Project Number:



**GRANT AGREEMENT SIGNATURE PAGE**

**COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA**

[www.dcnr.state.pa.us/grants](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/grants)

**DCNR-2016-C2P2-17**

**Application Information (\*Indicates required information)**

Applicant/Grantee Legal Name:\* Abington Township

Web Application ID:\* 1101063

Project Title:\* Development of Ardsley Wildlife Sanctuary, Abington Township, Montgomery County

Legal Name of Applicant/Grantee

Abington Township

Federal Employer Identification No. 23-6000025

**WITNESS:**

**GRANTEE:**

Michael LeFevre

Original Signature

Original Signature

**DATE:** April 14, 2016

Wayne C. Luker, President

(typed or printed)

**TITLE:** President, Board of Commissioners

**DATE:** April 14, 2016

**DCNR USE ONLY**

Project Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**BOARD ACTION REQUEST**

**PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

April 6, 2016

**DATE**

**PA 4**

**AGENDA ITEM NUMBER**

**DEPARTMENT**

**AGENDA ITEM**

**TOWNSHIP MANAGER**

Administration

House Bill 340  
(PN 2947)

*Max*

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**PREVIOUS ACTIONS**

On March 15, the House State Government Committee met to consider House Bill 340 (PN 2947) which makes several important amendments to the Sunshine Law regarding open meetings and executive sessions.

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**RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION**

Motion to request State Representative Dean's support in opposing House Bill 340 in its present format.

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**COMMENTS**

The bill amends language in Section 708 of the Sunshine Law narrowing employment matters for executive session to only those pertaining to a specific individual.

The bill requires all executive session, except those held in connection with litigation, to be recorded via audio or video and retained for one year.

Prior to holding an executive session on any matter, an agency shall either obtain advice from legal counsel as to whether the matter at hand may be discussed.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 340 Session of 2015

INTRODUCED BY SACcone, MAHONEY, CHRISTIANA, METCALFE AND MCGINNIS, FEBRUARY 5, 2015

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, MARCH 15, 2016

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 65 (Public Officers) of the Pennsylvania
2 Consolidated Statutes, in open meetings, further providing
3 for definitions, for executive sessions and for penalties.

4 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
5 hereby enacts as follows:

6 Section 1. The definition of "deliberation" in section 703
7 of Title 65 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes is amended
8 to read:

9 § 703. Definitions.

10 The following words and phrases when used in this chapter
11 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
12 context clearly indicates otherwise:

13 \* \* \*

14 "Deliberation." The discussion of agency business held for
15 the purpose of making a decision. The term includes an
16 informational meeting or briefing that is required to be open to
17 the public.

18 \* \* \*



1 Section 2. Section 708(a) and (b) of Title 65 are amended to  
2 read:

3 § 708. Executive sessions.

4 (a) Purpose.--An agency may hold an executive session for  
5 one or more of the following reasons:

6 (1) To discuss any matter [involving], as it pertains to  
7 a specific individual WHO IS A prospective, current or former <--  
8 employee, relating to the employment, appointment,  
9 termination of employment, terms and conditions of  
10 employment, evaluation of performance, promotion or  
11 disciplining of [any] the specific individual WHO IS A <--  
12 prospective [public officer or] employee or current [public  
13 officer or] employee employed or appointed by the agency, or  
14 specific individual WHO IS A former [public officer or] <--  
15 employee, provided, however, that the individual employees  
16 [or appointees] whose rights could be adversely affected may  
17 request, in writing, that the matter or matters be discussed  
18 at an open meeting. The agency's decision to discuss such  
19 matters in executive session shall not serve to adversely  
20 affect the due process rights granted by law, including those  
21 granted by Title 2 (relating to administrative law and  
22 procedure). The provisions of this paragraph shall not apply  
23 to any meeting involving the appointment or selection of any  
24 person to fill a vacancy in any elected office. An agency  
25 shall discuss all other agency business relating to the  
26 POLICIES OF employment, appointment, termination of <--  
27 employment, terms and conditions of employment, evaluation of  
28 performance, promotion or disciplining of employees, <--  
29 APPOINTEES OR OFFICIALS OF THE AGENCY, AND OTHER DISCUSSIONS  
30 THAT DO NOT PERTAIN TO THE SPECIFIC INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE

1 PROSPECTIVE, CURRENT OR FORMER EMPLOYEES of the agency at an  
2 open meeting under section 704 (relating to open meetings).

3 (2) To hold information, strategy and negotiation  
4 sessions related to the negotiation or arbitration of a  
5 collective bargaining agreement or, in the absence of a  
6 collective bargaining unit, related to labor relations and  
7 arbitration.

8 (3) To consider the purchase or lease of real property  
9 up to the time an option to purchase or lease the real  
10 property is obtained or up to the time an agreement to  
11 purchase or lease such property is obtained if the agreement  
12 is obtained directly without an option.

13 (4) To consult with its attorney or other professional  
14 advisor regarding information or strategy in connection with  
15 litigation or with issues on which identifiable complaints  
16 are expected to be filed.

17 (5) To review and discuss agency business which, if  
18 conducted in public, would violate a lawful privilege or lead  
19 to the disclosure of information or confidentiality protected  
20 by law, including matters related to the initiation and  
21 conduct of investigations of possible or certain violations  
22 of the law and quasi-judicial deliberations.

23 (6) For duly constituted committees of a board or  
24 council of trustees of a State-owned, State-aided or State-  
25 related college or university or community college or of the  
26 Board of Governors of the State System of Higher Education to  
27 discuss matters of academic admission or standings.

28 (7) To review and discuss plans related to security and  
29 emergency preparedness, including the physical security of  
30 buildings, staff training, communication procedures, plans

1 for evacuation, lock-down or other safety measures,  
2 coordination with police, fire and other safety agencies that  
3 if disclosed would definitely jeopardize or threaten security  
4 or preparedness. The cost of implementing a plan and all  
5 information relating to the equipment to be purchased shall  
6 be discussed at an open meeting under section 704.

7 (b) Procedure.--

8 (1) The executive session may be held during an open  
9 meeting or at the conclusion of an open meeting or may be  
10 announced for a future time. The reason for holding the  
11 executive session must be announced at the open meeting  
12 occurring immediately prior or subsequent to the executive  
13 session. If the executive session is not announced for a  
14 future specific time, members of the agency shall be notified  
15 24 hours in advance of the time of the convening of the  
16 meeting specifying the date, time, location and purpose of  
17 the executive session.

18 (2) An agency holding an executive session under this  
19 subsection, EXCEPT FOR AN EXECUTIVE SESSION HELD FOR A <--  
20 PURPOSE UNDER SUBSECTION (A)(4), shall make ~~a~~ AN OFFICIAL <--  
21 verbatim audio or video recording of the complete executive  
22 session and retain the recording for a period of one year.  
23 ~~Such~~ PRIOR TO THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE EXECUTIVE SESSION, THE <--  
24 AGENCY SHALL MAKE AN ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THE EXECUTIVE SESSION  
25 WILL BE RECORDED. THE recordings ~~are not~~ SHALL NOT BE subject <--  
26 to public inspection and copying under the act of February  
27 14, 2008 (P.L.6, No.3), known as the Right-to-Know Law,  
28 except by court order. AN AGENCY MEMBER WHO WOULD HAVE BEEN <--  
29 PERMITTED TO ATTEND AN EXECUTIVE SESSION, WHETHER OR NOT THAT  
30 MEMBER WAS ACTUALLY IN ATTENDANCE, SHALL BE PERMITTED ACCESS

1 TO THE OFFICIAL RECORDING, SUBJECT TO REASONABLE RULES AND  
2 REGULATIONS OF THE AGENCY TO PROTECT ACCESS TO THE RECORDING.

3 (3) Prior to holding an executive session on any matter,  
4 the agency shall EITHER obtain advice from a solicitor or <--  
5 legal counsel as to whether or not the matter may be  
6 discussed at an executive session under the provisions of  
7 this section. <--

8 ~~(4) In the absence of a solicitor, the person in charge~~  
9 ~~of running the meeting shall determine on the record whether~~  
10 ~~the information on the agenda needs to be discussed in an~~  
11 ~~executive session.~~ OR, IF THE AGENCY MAKES THE DECISION TO <--  
12 NOT CONSULT A SOLICITOR OR LEGAL COUNSEL, THE ELECTED  
13 OFFICIAL IN CHARGE SHALL DETERMINE WHETHER THE INFORMATION ON  
14 THE AGENDA NEEDS TO BE DISCUSSED IN AN EXECUTIVE SESSION. IN  
15 EITHER CASE, IT SHALL BE PUBLICLY STATED ON THE RECORD AT THE  
16 CURRENT PUBLIC MEETING OR NEXT PUBLIC MEETING WHETHER THE  
17 SOURCE OF THE OPINION IS:

18 (I) THE SOLICITOR OR LEGAL COUNSEL; OR

19 (II) THE ELECTED OFFICIAL IN CHARGE WHO MADE THE  
20 DETERMINATION.

21 \* \* \*

22 Section 3. Section 714 of Title 65 is amended to read:

23 § 714. Penalty.

24 (a) Fines and costs.--Any member of any agency who  
25 participates in a meeting with the intent and purpose by that  
26 member of violating this chapter commits a summary offense for a  
27 first offense and a misdemeanor of the third degree for a second  
28 or subsequent offense and shall, upon conviction, be sentenced  
29 to pay:

30 (1) For a first offense, in addition to any other

1 penalty authorized by law, the costs of prosecution plus a  
2 fine of at least \$100 and, in the discretion of the  
3 sentencing authority, of not more than \$1,000.

4 (2) For a second or subsequent offense, the costs of  
5 prosecution plus a fine of at least \$500 and, in the  
6 discretion of the sentencing authority, of not more than  
7 \$2,000.

8 (b) Payment.--An agency shall not make a payment on behalf  
9 of or reimburse a member of an agency for a fine or cost  
10 resulting from the member's violation of this section.

11 (c) Immunity.--Any member of an agency shall be immune from  
12 civil and criminal liability, costs and fees for violations of  
13 this chapter if the member makes a good faith report, verbally  
14 or in writing, to the appropriate authority of a violation of  
15 this chapter.

16 Section 4. This act shall take effect in 60 days.