

**Abington Township
Environmental Advisory Council
Draft Meeting Minutes
January 8, 2025**

Call to Order: 7:03 pm

Attendees:

Members: Andrea Soo (AS), Karin McGarry-Rosen (KMR), John Sorrentino (JSO), Mitch Gertz (MG), Mike Melchiorre (MM), Nancy O'Neill (NO), Susan Myerov (SM)

Associate Members: Peaches Cooper (PC), Elena Jadach (EJ), Jenn Sherwood (JSh)

Others Present: Meryl Hyatt (MH, resident/volunteer), Ethan Simon, Grace Sekelewski (AT Communications)

1. **Approval of Minutes** – December 2024 minutes were approved with motion.

2. **Treasurer's Report** – JSO shared updated report through end of 2024.

3. **Amendments to the Agenda:** None

4. **Active Business**

- A. **Single-Use Plastic (SUP) Ban Ordinance (KMR)** – KMR reported that the upcoming BOC agenda for January includes a motion to approve to advertise the ordinance. A long-time Abington resident shared her support at the most recent BOC meeting. SEPA Coalition requested participation in the Steering Committee from KMR and AS.
- B. **Composting Coalition Update (JSO)** – The engineering firm working on this effort created a community survey, with feedback from Township; next step is to seek approval from the new Township Manager before posting. The survey will have a unique URL and will be posted either on the Township home page or EAC page. Survey to run 3 weeks.
- C. **Recycling Program Outreach (EJ)** – No updates to report. EJ shared the great news that she will be attending the University of Pennsylvania starting in the fall for environmental science.
- D. **Climate Action Plan Draft Completion, ICLEI Membership, and technical assistance (CE)** – Benchmarking report was shared by Ashley from the Township. Will be meeting end of January to move forward with a consultant to complete it. Other items to review include EV and gas contracts.
- E. **Bird Town updates (JSH)** – JSH shared 20 people participated from our team identifying species, birds, habitat location. Thanks everyone for their support. The Bird Town annual report is in progress and JSH requests help with documenting data/hours and projects completed this year. This can also be used for the EAC annual report. JSH will send an email to EAC members to request summaries of volunteer work and hours for the annual report, due in Jan. (estimate hours). If anyone is interested in joining the Bird Town Committee, please let JSH know. Work may include getting involved in projects (e.g., library, Roslyn Park), walks, climate watch (species that are changing traditional ranges).
- F. **Land Development - 221 Moredon Road** – SM previously shared this land development application with EAC members and worked with STC on the review letter. Question from Ethan, does the Township allow replacement tree planting in other locations, in lieu of on-site if needed? Not something the Township currently has, but it could be worth exploring.
- G. **Abington School District Collaboration (CE/PC/NO)** – Abington School District sent an email to stakeholders with a survey and tax calculator to estimate individual tax implications for the four potential options to renovate the school building. The ASD School Board may recommend one option as part of their January agenda. Social media, mail, and calls will be used for public outreach. EAC can help with spreading the word and advocating for the energy efficiency and environmental benefits of a new facility or facilities.
- H. **Sustainability Checklist** – Nothing to report. Subgroup needs to convene a meeting which will include a combination of PB, NO, SM, CE.

5. **New Business**

- A. **EAC Bylaws** – KMR reviewed updated version, cleaning up formatting and language. Added section on Associate member appointments. Discussed language around policy and procedure under conflicts of interest. Updates to roles and responsibilities. SM made a motion to approve the Bylaws pending any minor editorial corrections.
- B. **EAC Associate Members Additions/Renewals** – JSO made motion to approve Peaches Cooper as a full EAC Member taking over Andrea’s spot. This will be included in the next Board of Commissioner’s Agenda for official approval. MG made a Motion to approve other Associate Member renewals which passed. Elena’s younger brother may also be interested in the future.
- C. **50-year anniversary committee** – JSO will assemble a committee, potentially with interest from MM, MG, PC, and CE.

6. **Citizens’ Comments and Responses.** None

7. Meeting adjourned at 8:22 PM.

Next meeting – **February 12, 2025** ([Virtual](#)) at **7 PM**

Acronym Key:

AT – Abington Township

BOC – Board of Commissioners

BT – PA Bird Town

CAP – Climate Action Plan

CBC – Christmas Bird Count

CP – Comprehensive Plan

DCNR – Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

EAC – Environmental Advisory Council

EV – Electric vehicle

GHG – Greenhouse gas

LEED – Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design

RFP – Request for Proposal

SD – School District

SEPA – Southeastern PA

STC – Shade Tree Commission

SUP – Single-Use Plastics

TTFWP – Tookany-Tacony Frankford Watershed Partnership

USDA – U.S. Department of Agriculture

USGBC – U.S. Green Building Council