

**Abington Township  
Environmental Advisory Council  
Meeting Minutes for January 11, 2023**

**Call to Order:** 7:02 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: Peaches Cooper (PC), Jennifer Sherwood (JSh)

Others Present: Tony Davis (President Willow Grove NAACP), Michelle Hiatt (NAACP member, Phila chapter), Elena Jadach (student/Co-President of Science Club at Penn Charter), Cindy/John Miller (residents), Grace Sekelewski (Digital Media & Communications Coordinator, Abington Township)

1. **Approval of Minutes:** December 2022 minutes were approved
2. **Amendments to the Agenda** – None
3. **Reports below were shared and discussed:**
  - A. Chairperson's Report - None
  - B. Treasurer's Report
4. **Committee Reports below were shared and discussed:**
  - A. Policy – None
  - B. Programs
  - C. Engagement
5. **Active Business**
  - A. **Climate Action Draft Plan (CAP) and Shared Energy Manager Program** – Nothing new to report.
  - B. **Shared Energy Manager Survey** – Nothing new to report.
  - C. **Other Energy and Climate Action Initiatives**
    1. LEED for Cities Certification – CE provided overview to guest attendees.
    2. Climate Change Legislation/Strategies – Nothing new to report.
    3. Ready for 100 Abington Clean Energy Plan Team (ACEPT) Update and PACleanEnergy.com website – Nothing new to report.
    4. Level 2 EV Charging Stations Rebate Program – Nothing new to report.
    5. Municipal Energy Procurement and Efficiency Next Steps – Nothing new to report.
  - D. **Development Plan and Zoning Review and Coordination** – Nothing new to report. Proposed plan for Raising Cane's Restaurant is expected to be presented during next Planning Commission meeting.
  - E. **Vision2035 Comprehensive Plan Development** – No new CP meeting scheduled.
  - F. **Rain Barrel program** – SM met with Ryan Neuman of TTFWP; need to coordinate with residents who still have RB needs. KMR noted that EAC will be doing the following:
    - Use up RB supplies until depleted; currently have 35 square downspouts to use up.
    - Not plan any more RB workshops for spring.
    - Remove EAC rain barrel program from township permit application.
    - Provide a list of RB resources for the public while we phase out our RB program.
  - G. **Bird Town Events** – JSh said Earth Day this year is on April 22. The Abington Library native plant sale and BriarBush EarthFest will occur at the same time; seeking volunteers for both events. Monthly bird walks are continuing at Lorimer Park every 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month.
  - H. **Plastic Bag Ban Update** – AS delivered Single-Use Plastics cover letter and draft ordinance to Township Manager Rich Manfredi on Jan 10, 2023.
  - I. **Composting update** – JSO said group was divided on how much DEP should be involved in our composting initiative discussions. Currently working on appropriate DEP contacts.
  - J. **Montgomery Award** – Nothing new to report. SM will follow up with Abington Township response on what to do for 2022 nominees. One new nominee for 2022. Previously, nominations were due in April, discussed in June-July, then presented in August.
  - K. **Township Recreation, Parks and Open Space Board update** – KMR summarized meeting on Mon, 1/9. Talked about tentative game plan for parks (e.g. evaluating amenities within each park and where they are geographically located among residents). Additional tax money could potentially be applied to a fund to purchase additional open space, if needed.

## 6. New Business:

- A. **EAC Open Seat Recruitment** – No new updates. CE suggested advertising a needs profile. JSh wrote up what we're looking for and sent it to our commissioners to advertise in their newsletters.
- B. **Review of bylaws** – Need to review and update language (if needed) for bylaws in the most recent version:
  - Number of years for office terms and all successive terms.
  - Regular meetings shall be held at either the Township building or virtually.
  - Do we need clearance/background checks?

### Citizens' Comments and Responses –

- **Michelle Hiatt** - Informed the EAC of her fuel oil spill situation at her home. Fox Fuel delivered fuel oil into Park Auto's tanks adjacent to her home which leaked into her home. At this time, the PADEP, State Representative, Attorney General's office, and commissioner are involved. The EAC will continue to monitor the situation and assist the resident where possible.
- **Elena Jadach** – Expressed interested in recycling and food waste.
- **Cakky** – CE will be sharing information about radon contamination in homes.
- **KMR** – Through Robeley, KMR is moving EAC contacts to new account which will have the ability to add more participants to our list.

The meeting adjourned at 9:07 pm

Next meeting – February 8, 2023 ([Virtual](#)) at **7 PM**

### Acronym Key:

ACEPT – Abington Clean Energy Plan Team

AT – Abington Township

CAP – Climate Action Plan

CP – Comprehensive Plan

DEP – Department of Environmental Protection

EAC – Environmental Advisory Council

EV – Electric vehicle

LCAP – Local Climate Action Program

LEED – Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design

LFC&C – LEED for Cities and Communities

Rf100 – Ready for 100