

**Abington Township
Environmental Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes for February 10, 2021**

Call to Order: 7:34 pm

Attendees:

Members: Cakky Evans (CE), Michele Kaczalek (MK), Sue Myerov (SM), Andrea Soo (AS),
John Sorrentino (JSO), Jim Webb (JW)

Associate Members: Jennifer Sherwood (JSh)

Others Present: Nathan Vasserman (IT Officer, Abington Township), Valerie Neske (ASHS student/Co-president of Abington Environmental Club)

1. **Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from the January 2021 meeting were approved with CE-recommended edits.
2. **Amendments to the Agenda** – CAP discussion.
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](#)** – Nothing to report. CE summarized LfC program for Valerie Neske, a visiting ASHS student and Co-President of the Abington Environmental Club.
 - B. **Comprehensive Plan Updates** – No committee meetings scheduled at this time.
 - C. **Development Plan Reviews** – SM received three new plans to be reviewed in collaboration with STC.
 - D. **Energy Initiatives:**
 - 2020 CDP Cities Scores and next steps – Nothing to report.
 - Rf100 Updates:
 - ACEPT worked with AM to finalize strategic energy plan survey for the BOC and key township personnel.
 - JSO/CE attended a preliminary meeting to collaborate with Bryn Mawr students in a Mathematics of Sustainability student project related to performing/reporting calculations to determine energy efficiency.
 - Climate Collaborative of Greater Philadelphia (CCGP) Resolution: An Initiative to Accelerate Effective Climate Actions – CE has requested submission of the CCGP to the Committee of the Whole (CotW) to create GHG goals before public outreach.
 - PA DEP Local Climate Action Program (LCAP) – An initial list of key stakeholders will be invited by AT to join a new task force, Abington Climate Collaborative, to support the LCAP work plan within the next month. AM/AC/CE have met weekly to work on aspects of the plan that involve community engagement. The three main objectives are to ask members of the collaborative to:
 1. Help promote the work plan to their constituents.
 2. Allow use of their logo as a member of the collaborative.
 3. Act as a steering committee to review the plan’s final version based on their expertise before submitting it to the BOC for approval.SM commented that the invitation to stakeholders must clearly explain our purpose, their specific roles and responsibilities, and their time commitment to the collaborative.
 - CE emailed Jim Melchor, ASD Assistant Superintendent, to share Covid-19 building re-entry best practices.
 - E. **Rain Barrel program** – One RB sold. Next RB workshop is scheduled for March 4.
 - F. **Road Salt** – SM shared DB’s email summarizing his “Winter Salt Sense” update. Relevant info/links shared on EAC and Abington Township websites and commissioners are encouraged to disseminate info.

6. **New Business:**

- A. **2020 Annual Report** – JW sent a draft outline and has asked EAC members to help provide content. Written report should be completed by end of March.
- B. **Keep PA Beautiful** – SM encouraged EAC to register for this program to be part of a larger effort and to prepare in advance for future cleanup events. This program will provide free gloves, trash bags, and vests for participants. JW wants to leverage commissioners to recruit volunteers. JSh mentioned that there is a new waiver form that must be signed by participants before any activity.
- C. **EAC Network Conference Pre-Survey** – JW completed the pre-conference survey that was requested by the EAC Network for the conference on April 10. Community and local government engagement was identified as a key issue.
- D. **Electronics Recycling** – Public works on hold for e-cycling due to Covid-19.
- E. **Neal Gale departure** – Discussed Neal's email on 1/30 announcing his departure from EAC (for now). EAC expressed deep appreciation for all of Neal's contributions, including his work with Rf100.

7. **Citizens' Comments and Responses** – Valerie Neske attending tonight's meeting as a service learning opportunity and because of her interest in sustainable urban development and being the co-president of the Abington Environmental Club.

The meeting adjourned at 8:39 pm

Next meeting – March 10, 2021 ([virtual](#))

Acronym Key:

AC – Akilah Chatman, Drexel University LCAP intern
ACEPT – Abington Clean Energy Plan Team
ASD – Abington School District
AT – Abington Township
BOC – Board of Commissioners
CCGP - Climate Collaborative of Greater Philadelphia
CDP – Carbon Disclosure Project
COTW – Committee of the Whole
CP – Comprehensive Plan
EAC – Environmental Advisory Council
LCAP – Local Climate Action Program
LEED – Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design
RB – Rain barrel
Rf100 – Ready for 100
STC – Shade Tree Commission
USGBC – U.S. Green Building Council