

**Abington Township
Environmental Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
February 12, 2025**

Call to Order: 7:03 pm

Attendees:

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

Associate Members: Cakky Evans (CE), Elena Jadach (EJ), Jenn Sherwood (JSh), Andrea Soo (AS)

Others Present: Monique, Johnny Jadach, Jim Webb, Ethan Simon, Dave Bell, Ethan Simon, residents; Nathan Vasserman (Abington Township)

1. **Approval of Minutes** – January 2025 minutes were approved with motion made by JSO
2. **Treasurer's Report** – JSO shared updated report, no comments
3. **Amendments to the Agenda:** None

4. Active Business

- A. **Single-Use Plastic (SUP) Ban Ordinance (KMR)** – KMR reported that the SUP was published with no fee and the removal of the large font for paper bags. Several residents spoke for the SUP ban. KMR and Penn Environment rep have advocated for adding the fee back into the ordinance. The ordinance will be part of the 2/13 agenda for Township vote without the fee included. AS and KMR will be on the SEPA group working to expand through the southeast region.
- B. **Composting Coalition Update (JSO)** – Composting survey is now being distributed through Township newsletter, EAC newsletter, and in the Abington Patch. Survey to run through Feb 21st.
- C. **Recycling Program Outreach (EJ)** – EJ and Johnny are planning to run another program at the Abington Library in the spring. Consider dates for March and April (e.g., April 5 Garden Fest/flea market, Native Plant Sale is April 26).
- D. **Climate Action Plan Draft Completion, ICLEI Membership, and technical assistance (CE, MM)** – Meeting from 1/29 to be rescheduled (topics will include charging stations, benchmarking report) with Ashley McIlvaine.
- E. **Sustainability Checklist** - CE will send the draft sustainability checklist again for feedback with the goal of sharing it with the Planning Commission with a discussion of how the checklist will be utilized. A future step may be working with a consultant to refine the checklist that ultimately becomes part of the climate action plan and the building / development process.
- F. **Bird Town updates (JSH)** – JSH thanked everyone for providing details and contributing the annual report. Volunteers conducted a climate watch on Jan 28 and another will be coming up as a volunteer citizen climate project. Upcoming events are planned for the Great Backyard Bird Count. 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).
- G. **Abington School District Collaboration (CE/PC/NO)** – The ASD School Board decided to move forward with "Option 2" with a citizen referendum in May (one new building on the ASD campus). EAC can help with spreading the word with support for the referendum and advocating for the energy efficiency and environmental benefits of a new facility or facilities.
- H. **Crestmont bank stabilization project (MM)** - upcoming meeting to be scheduled.
- I. **Salt issues in Baederwood Creek.** Salt levels in Baederwook Creek have been high; monitoring with TFT has been ongoing. Ethan discussed that the levels are higher than in surrounding communities. Upcoming discussions with the Streets Department to see if we can change practices to reduce road salt usage and can adopt best management practices. Once salt is in the groundwater it is not easily removed and has to be diluted

over time. Other potential advocacy points of contact include homeowner outreach and large institutional users like hospitals. Discussion of possibility of the EAC requesting funding to support a study or plan to reduce salting with better alternative practices and save the Township money (e.g., infrastructure damage, labor and materials). Continue with education and outreach. Consider collaborative approach with surrounding EACs.

5. New Business

- A. **Electronic Recycling** – 2/22 (discussed EAC participation)
- B. **Volunteer coordination** – offering from Mom’s Organic Market, connecting for future opportunities. STC is also an option.
- C. **Coordination with STC.** There is a working group putting together an RFP for the Invasive Plant Management Plan (EAC/STC). Anticipate an early March date for the RFP for Township parks. SM moves to support an EAC grant application for future implementation funds for invasive plant management through a TC Energy grant.

6. Citizens’ Comments and Responses. None

7. Meeting adjourned at 9:27 PM.

Next meeting – **March 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