

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

Call to Order: 7:35 pm

Attendees:

Members: Cakky Evans (CE), Michele Kaczalek (MK), Karin McGarry-Rosen (KMR), Sue Myerov (SM),
Andrea Soo (AS), Jim Webb (JW)

Associate Members: Jennifer Sherwood (JSh), Kurt Wood (KW)

Others Present: Ashley McIlvaine (AM, AT Communications Manager), Kishan Patel (ASHS student)

1. **Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from the February 2021 meeting were approved.
2. **Amendments to the Agenda** – None.
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. **Energy and Climate Action Initiatives**
 - i. Ready for 100 Abington Clean Energy Plan Team (ACEPT) Update
 - CE summarized the Strategic Energy Plan survey to Kishan Patel, Abington Senior High School student.
 - ACEPT met on 3/4 to discuss next steps and top priorities. Decision was made to include the Clean Energy Plan (CEP) in the CAP. EAC will review the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) comments list to invite relevant members to support the team.
 - Rebate program - AM submitted AT’s application for the Department of Environmental Protection’s (DEP) Level 2 Electric Vehicle Charging Station Rebate Program.
 - On 2/26, Rf100 CEP member, Mark Connelly, and CE presented the ACEPT Municipal GHG/Energy Management Project to Bryn Mawr students. Selected students attended the first orientation and training in early March.
 - “Where do we go from here” – Handout document has been drafted.
 - ii. Climate Action Plan (CAP) Update
 - CE summarized CAP and suggested a development calendar; currently forming task force and engaging community.
 - Plan to hold at least three community workshops with the first one proposed on Earth Day (4/22).
 - AT will have a part-time energy manager to be shared among participating municipalities.
 - Currently developing hazard and vulnerability assessments using AT 2020 CDP Cities Questionnaire and AT responses.
 - On 2/24, CE presented a summary of the LCAP to the Shade Tree Commissions (STC) and has asked for their community engagement and support.
 - iii. 2020 CDP Cities Questionnaire Score – The 2021 CDP Questionnaire will be released.
 - iv. USGBC LEED for Cities – Township manager, R. Manfredi, wrote a letter to support certification resubmission extension. Deadline is 12/1/21.
 - B. **Comprehensive Plan Updates** – Next scheduled Vision2035 CP development team meeting is 4/20 at 6 pm. No other updates.
 - C. **Development Plan Reviews** – SM summarized two development plans:
 - i. Holy Redeemer Hospital Linear Accelerator – Proposal will extend hospital building to accommodate new accelerator with net loss of impervious surface. SM suggested various green infrastructure (tree replacement, increase green space). Motion to approve SM’s review letter to the Planning Commission with proposed edits was granted.

- ii. Barn for Redeemer Valley Community Garden – Proposal will establish a new timber-framed structure to extend barn space for community garden. SM commended Redeemer Valley Farm for incorporating many green infrastructure elements (e.g. stormwater management, solar panels, cistern for water collection) in the proposal. Motion to approve SM’s review letter to the Planning Commission with proposed edits was granted.
 - D. **Rain Barrel program** – EAC discussed the possibility of adding more RB workshops in April – to be determined.
 - E. **Road Salt** – Nothing to report.
 - F. **2020 Annual Report** – Draft is in progress.
 - G. **Keep PA Beautiful Registration** – JSh will register EAC with this program.
6. **New Business:**
- A. Zoning Amendment Process – SM recommended we establish a process to review significant zoning text amendments with the Planning Commission.
 - B. EAC Leadership of the CAP process – CE will prepare a draft letter for EAC review to invite relevant stakeholders to engage in the CAP process.
7. **Citizens’ Comments and Responses** – Kishan Patel is an ASHS student who attended tonight’s meeting and has expressed interest in supporting the LCAP process. CE will follow up with dates to meet.

The meeting adjourned at 9:34 pm

Next meeting – April 14, 2021 ([virtual](#))

Acronym Key:

AC – Akilah Chatman, Drexel University LCAP intern
ACEPT – Abington Clean Energy Plan Team
ASHS – Abington Senior High School
AT – Abington Township
BL – Ben Landau, Abington Township resident
BOC – Board of Commissioners
CCGP - Climate Collaborative of Greater Philadelphia
CDP – Carbon Disclosure Project
CEP – Clean Energy 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
RB – Rain barrel
Rf100 – Ready for 100
RGGI – Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative
STC – Shade Tree Commission
USGBC – U.S. Green Building Council