

**Abington Township  
Environmental Advisory Council  
Meeting Minutes  
April 9, 2025**

**Call to Order:** 7:03 pm

**Attendees:**

Members: Karin McGarry-Rosen (KMR), **Mitch Gertz (MG)**, Nancy O'Neill (NO), John Sorrentino (JSO)

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

Others Present: Meryl Hyatt; Johnny Jadach (JJ), Nathan Vasserman (Abington Township)

1. **Approval of Minutes** – March 2025 minutes were approved
2. **Treasurer's Report** – No updates
3. **Amendments to the Agenda:** None
4. **Active Business**
  - A. **Single-Use Plastic (SUP) Ban Ordinance (KMR)** – The ordinance was passed by the Board of Commissions on Feb 13 and is scheduled to go into effect in August 2025.
  - B. **Composting Coalition Update (JSO, AS)** – Survey has been completed, the team is awaiting results.
  - C. **Recycling Program Outreach (EJ)** – EJ and JJ are planning to present at the Abington Library with a sustainability focused program and run another program at the library in the spring. Thurs, April 17th will be the Teen Volunteer Event - eligible for service hours and will include discussion of environmental issues.
  - D. **Climate Action Plan Draft Completion, ICLEI Membership, and technical assistance (CE, MM)** – RFP to be developed with additional follow up with Abington's Assistant Township Manager.
  - E. **Bird Town updates (JSH)** – Thanks to all who participated at the Library Garden Fest last Saturday. Hundreds of participants. Lots of questions and kids were interested in doing a craft. The TTF Watershed group put out a volunteer request for help with the riparian buffer at Abington Middle School this weekend. The native plant sales are coming up on the weekend of Sat, 4/26 (Abington Library) and Sun, 4/27 (Briar Bush Earth Fest). Sign ups needed for volunteer shifts. 25% of sale proceeds go to the Library and Briar Bush.  
Bird migration is in progress, weekly walks at Lorimer Park - reach out to JS for more info. JSH thanked everyone for providing details and contributing the annual report. Awarded Golden Eagle award for the second year based on partnerships and collaborations. The Shade Tree Commission with EAC members (JSH, NO) are working on an Invasive Plant Management program RFP with Township. Roslyn Park native gardens have been funded for the second year. April 5, Abington Free Library tabling event, 1-3 PM. April 22, Birdtown Native Plant Sale at Library. April 23, Briar Busch Native 1-4 pm.
  - F. **Abington School District Collaboration (CE/PC/NO)** – As previously discussed, the ASD School Board decided to move forward with "Option 2" with a citizen referendum on May 20 (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. Election Day is Tuesday, May 20. NO and PC are involved in volunteering / tabling / lit drops with the Say Yes to Invest volunteer group.  
PC is speaking with representatives about a formal avenue for EAC support. MM made a motion, seconded by JSO, to support the Vote Yes to Invest campaign and future design to include sustainable and renewable energy efficient design concepts and learning environments. *Mitch made motion, John seconded to support the Vote Yes to Invest*

**5. New Business**

**A. SPS Fire Follow-Ups (All)**

AS shared a draft EAC-STC Memo developed with Anna Nicholaides and Andrew Christy of STC, who had asked EAC to write a joint letter to Abington Township for consideration. Discussion about the contents of the letter, with recommendations for different scenarios if SPS rebuilds or doesn't end up rebuilding. If EAC members have comments, please send those directly to AS by 4/15. Consider referencing the Parks and Recreation Master Plan and the Master Tree Plan. Request will be to share this letter widely.

### **B. 2024 Annual Report (Karin)**

KMR is working on this and it will be circulated

### **C. Associate member nominations**

Johnny Jadach (JJ) was nominated for an Associate member with all voting members approving.

### **Adjourn 8:16**

Next meeting – **May 14, 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