

Abington Township Environmental Advisory Council (EAC)

Meeting Minutes

Date: May 14, 2025

Attendees:

Members: Karin McGarry-Rosen (KMR), Mike Melchiorre (MM), Sue Myerov (SM), John Sorrentino (JSO), Peaches Cooper (PC)

Associate Members: Elena Jadach (EJ), Johnny Jadach (JJ), Jennifer Sherwood (JSH), Andrea Soo (AS)

Others Present: Nathan Vasserman (NV, Abington Township Technology Officer), Meryl Hyatt (MH), Casey Armbruster

Call to Order: 7:02 pm

Approval of the minutes: Minutes from the April 2025 meeting were approved with no changes.		
Treasurer's report: JSO shared the treasurer's report.		
Amendments to the Agenda: None.		
Active Business Topic:	Discussion points:	Action Items/Follow-Ups:
Single Use Plastic Bag Ordinance - (KMR/AS)	KMR reported receiving more reusable bags donated to us from Hammer & Bell. KMR reported no plastic bags at Acme. EAC members mentioned seeing signs posted at businesses regarding the plastic bag ban.	N/A
Composting Coalition Update (JSO)	JSO reports awaiting the raw data from the Food Waste Survey. There were 716 respondents. SGS Engineers interviewed folks from the big commercial generators. SGS reviewed the ordinances in the township to evaluate barriers. Chapter 92 states that if waste is separated at the source, it is not classified as municipal waste and can be categorized as recycling. Also, something about haulers getting a particular license and they were unsure if this would fit into that category of food scraps.	N/A
Recycling Program Outreach – update (EJ and JJ)	JJ started a service project at the library where kids can fill in a bookmark which has recycling rules for 30 minutes of service. EJ and JJ had an event at the library for teens and tweens about recycling, but kids are still able to complete the bookmark for service hours.	N/A
Climate Action Plan draft completion and ICLEI Membership and technical assistance (CE/MM/MG)	MG reported there have been a couple of emails about the training from Practical Energy Solutions which may no longer be needed as the tool may be going away. At this juncture the current administration plans to shut down the energy efficiency product certification program of Energy Star. This may be an indication that the future of portfolio manager is uncertain. Consultants are looking into other opportunities to track that info. Possibly an AI tool to back up the data but Sept 2025 the existing tool will be eliminated.	N/A
Bird Town Updates (JSH)	JSH reported the Native Plant sales were 4/26 and 4/27 and thanked everyone for helping support the events. Made close to \$3K between the 2 events and we gave 25% to the library and \$300 to Briar Bush. The library has already requested us to have the native plants at their Fall plant and Book sale,	JSH said she will ask Terry about next year's dates for events when the deadline comes for the calendar.

	Saturday, September 27th. There was a discussion about next year's dates for events to add to the township calendar. Monthly bird walks continue at Lorimer and Bethayres dates/times are on the township website on the EAC page under Bird Town. Sunday, May 18th is Upper Dublin's Bird Town Native Plant sale at Twining Valley Park where JSH will be supporting.	
Abington School District Collaboration (PC and NO)	PC reported that the Vote Yes to Invest campaign, NO has been volunteering at events such as at the library. Campaign members have been including in the referendum does not pass, that improvements will still be necessary at the Middle School and what that entails. NO asked about the greening activities at the elementary schools. PC reached out to Dr. Fetcher about greening activities, he responded that there are green clubs at the Middle School and Senior High Schools. PC asked if the EAC would partner with ASD. JSH shared her experience with greening activities at McKinley and how funding is raised, parent volunteers, and children age out of elementary schools. Best to get a teacher to champion at the school. KMR shared her experience at Highland. A Garden Club was started and there was a teacher who was a champion who then left the school district after a few years. KMR mentioned that taxes would still go up, although not as much, if the referendum does not pass. PC reminded the attendees to vote on May 20th.	N/A
Development Plans: 2241 Old Welsh Road (KMR)	SM mentioned that she checked our review letter against the final version and our comments were addressed.	N/A
New Business Topic:	Discussion points:	Action Items/Follow-Ups:
SPS Fire (AS)	AS reported submitting the formal letter to the township for the residents who signed it. No formal response from the township, publicized in local Glenside publications and news. AS reported that the soil tests came back and there were some exceedances in that state level criteria however it is typical in urban environment it is typically and no immediate concerns. Hallowell Park continues to not have any activities due to traffic control as SPS continues to do reclamation. SPS will begin the demolition phase starting 5/19. Highland Avenue is back open since the fire.	N/A
Annual Report (KMR)	KMR mentioned gave a deadline for the annual report for the week prior. If no edits are received, the slides will be removed. KMR will present the annual report at the June BOC meeting and KMR thanked everyone who provided information.	N/A
Meeting Change for 2026 (KMR)	KMR reported that the EAC meeting is generally the day before the BOC meeting and how it may decrease participation in this meeting due to the 2	KMR will add it to the agenda for next month

	meetings being back-to-back. KMR asked about changing the day and week that the EAC meets. MM mentioned that Mondays and Wednesdays are best for him. PC is available whenever. NV asked if there was a plan to move to a hybrid or in-person model. The attendees on the call want to remain online only for meetings. The third and fourth Wednesday are available.	
Purchases: Polo Shirts (KMR)	KMR reported that NO sent an email about the shirts and that Artistry, who we have used before, does not have natural fabrics. 4Imprint has our logo and we have used in the past. Natural fabrics have limited colors, which is why grey is being pursued. JS says that he will pass on the polo shirt.	N/A
Citizens' Comments & Responses:	Discussion points:	Action Items/Follow-Ups:
None		

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 7:53 pm

Next Meeting: June 11, 2025 @ 7:00 pm - VIRTUAL

Acronym Key:

AT – Abington Township

ASD – Abington School District

BOC – Board of Commissioners

FB - Facebook

ICLEI - International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives

SUP – Single-Use Plastics