

**Abington Township
Environmental Advisory Council
Final Meeting Minutes for June 8, 2022**

Call to Order: 7:02 pm

Attendees:

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

Associate Members: Peaches Cooper, (PC), Jennifer Sherwood (JSh)

Others Present: Emma Boyle (Abington resident), Lauren Ellenberg (Abington resident), Mike Tobin (Abington resident), Nathan Vasserman (IT Officer, Abington Township), Lance Weatherly (Abington resident)

1. **Approval of Minutes:** No May minutes recorded
2. **Amendments to the Agenda:**
3. **Reports below were shared and discussed:**
 - A. Chairperson's Report
 - B. Treasurer's Report
4. **Committee Reports below were shared and discussed:**
 - A. Policy – No written report was submitted
 - B. Programs
 - C. Engagement
5. **Active Business**
 - A. **Climate Action Draft Plan (CAP) and Shared Energy Manager Program and LEED for Cities Update – CE**

introduced guests to the CAP and summarized that AT was selected as one of the local CAP communities by the PADEP for the 2020-2021 cohort community. In addition, AT was one of five communities selected to receive services from the PADEP's contractor for the Shared Energy Manager (SEM) program; contractor is Wilson Engineering Services (WES). CE reported that Patricia Gallagher (STC) has drafted the Natural Systems and Ecology prerequisites for the Township's LEED for Cities recertification.
 - B. **Other Energy and Climate Action Initiatives**
 1. Ready for 100 Abington Clean Energy Plan Team (ACEPT) Update – CE has been regularly attending Rf100 meetings. There is a webinar scheduled for June 29 to learn about Mack Truck's electric trash trucks. AT officials and relevant commissioners will be invited to attend. Green Building United will be also hosting a webinar on June 30 about electrification technology for housing. CE reported that JSO will be EAC's solar champion and help determine what actions are needed to be a SolSmart community.
 - Level 2 EV Charging Stations Rebate Program – Nothing new to report.
 - PACleanEnergy.com website – EAC will be inviting Jim Wylie (Sierra Club, PA Chapter Chair) to our August 2022 EAC meeting to present and discuss his vision and efforts for this web resource.
 2. Municipal Energy Procurement and Efficiency Next Steps – Nothing new to report. CE reported that AM/Abington Township is continuing to work on the natural gas contractor bid.
 3. Climate Change Legislation/Strategies – Nothing new to report. CE re-introduced that USGBC will be offering "pilot credits" to increase the carbon sequestration via tree plantings for new construction. Patricia Gallagher (STC) has been supporting this effort. CE is also working on the land use checklist (from Rf100) as a tool for the Planning Commission.
 - C. **Development Plan and Zoning Review and Coordination** – Nothing new to report. SM has submitted the EAC review letter for the AutoZone land development plan.
 - D. **Vision2035 Comprehensive Plan Development** – Nothing new to report.
 - E. **Rain Barrel program** – KMR reported that 41 RBs sold (total sold to date = 1,169), 24 orders (2 art barrels). Redeemer Valley had 12 attendees for the RB workshop on May 14. RB workshop is scheduled for June 11 at the township training center.
 - F. **Bird Town Events** – Last Bird Town walk planned for June 14. First native plant garden tour was a great success and well attended.
 - G. **Plastic Bag Ban Survey:**
 - KMR shared current results of our residential survey (based on 600 responses).

- KMR and AS attended the latest Southeastern PA Single Use Plastics Coalition meeting on June 7. An EAC member of Tredyffrin Twp shared a very comprehensive powerpoint detailing the impacts of plastic bag use and what they proposed for their township. They encouraged other members to use the information for their own township proposals.
 - A plastic bag business survey has been drafted and Richard Manfredi, Township Manager, has asked EAC to provide a briefing summary on what we propose regarding plastic bag use, what we are working on, how it will impact the community, and where it has been successful before we involve the Economic Development Committee and local businesses.
- H. **Composting update** - JSO shared that Manfredi expressed legal concerns about a pilot program for curbside household compost pickup. Mark Maxwell (Superintendent of Refuse) indicated that Abington Township does not have the capacity to include household compost waste themselves. JSO will also communicate with the same contacts on the Southeastern PA Single Use Plastics Coalition for further input and recommendations regarding composting.
- I. **EAC/Environmental Justice Roundtable Summary** – CE attended this meeting to discuss current issues with other townships and will share resources collected about environmental justice with the EAC.
- J. **Montgomery Award** – 2020 and 2021 awardees (Pennoni and Penn State Abington, respectively) have been selected, but haven't been officially awarded because of Covid restrictions. We are now requesting nominations for the 2022 award until next month and will vote remotely.
6. **New Business:**
- A. **Household Hazardous Waste Collection** – Montgomery County will be hosting a household hazardous waste collection on June 25 at Abington Junior High School. SM is scheduled to volunteer and asked others to support.
- B. **Pre-Night Out** – JSO asked if EAC would be willing to participate in the August 1 Pre-Night Out event in Abington. EAC members discussed benefits and cost and what topic(s) (plastic bag ban, climate change, electric vehicles, rain barrels, etc.) we should cover at our table. Motion to participate in the event was unanimously approved.
7. **Citizens' Comments and Responses:**
- A. Mike Tobin comments:
- Made the distinction that the proposal at Manor College is for a veterinary school and the Toll Brothers' proposal at St. Basil's property is for new homes.
 - Asked EAC for the latest plan to reduce residential GHG emissions. CE shared the site tinyurl.com/publiccapdraft on the latest Draft CAP with Mike.
- B. Lance Weatherly comments:
- Asked about EAC budget and other sources of funding for our efforts. CE explained how we are funded.
 - Asked about what an associate member is. CE explained the distinction between members (voting) and associate members (non-voting).
 - Asked about development plan review process. SM explained the process and that EAC has now been a more integral part of the review process.

The meeting adjourned at 9:07 pm

Next meeting – July 13, 2022 ([Virtual](#)) at 7 PM

Acronym Key:

AT – Abington Township
 BOC – Board of Commissioners
 CAP – Climate Action Plan
 CP – Comprehensive Plan
 EAC – Environmental Advisory Council
 EV – Electric vehicle
 GHG – Greenhouse Gas
 LCAP – Local Climate Action Program
 LEED – Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design
 LFC&C – LEED for Cities and Communities
 PADEP – Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
 Rf100 – Ready for 100
 STC – Shade Tree Commission
 USGBC – U.S. Green Building Council