

Abington Township Environmental Advisory Council (EAC)

Meeting Minutes

Date: June 11, 2025

Attendees:

Members: Karin McGarry-Rosen (KMR), Mike Melchiorre (MM), Sue Myerov (SM), Peaches Cooper (PC), Nancy O'Neill (NO)

Associate Members: Jennifer Sherwood (JSH), Andrea Soo (AS), Cakky Braun-Evans (CE)

Others Present: Nathan Vasserman (NV, Abington Township Technology Officer), Andrew Christy, Rene King

Call to Order: 7:03 pm

Approval of the minutes: Minutes from the May 2025 meeting were approved with CE's edits		
Treasurer's report: No report submitted at the meeting time; JSO shared via email. KMR – noted deposit from the plant sale.		
Amendments to the Agenda: Edit from SM to add a development review.		
Active Business Topic:	Discussion points:	Action Items/Follow-Ups:
Invasive Plant Management Plan (Andrew Christy)	Andrew described the joint STC / EAC process to put together an RFP for an Invasive Plant Management Plan. This plan will be a companion to Abington's Recreation, Park, and Open Space Plan. The joint STC / EAC working group requested three options with associated bidding. Request for supplemental funds from the STC and EAC budgets to move forward with all can contribute a small amount of additional funds, the Township will be able to move forward with the recommended contractor. Rene King (resident) suggested that Montgomery Stream Keepers could support with future implementation efforts.	SM made a motion to contribute \$1,500. All members approved.
Single Use Plastic Bag Ordinance - (KMR/AS)	KMR reported receiving more reusable bags donated to us from Hammer & Bell Co. KMR reported no plastic bags in use at Acme. EAC members mentioned seeing signs posted at businesses regarding the plastic bag ban.	N/A
Composting Coalition Update (John / Andrea)	No updates at this time.	N/A
Climate Action Plan draft completion and ICLEI Membership and technical assistance (CE/MM/MG)	We received Abington's score and feedback. The small group is working with Ashley McIlvaine to contract with PES to complete add-on benchmarking services and complete Township building audits.	CE/MM/MG report back on next steps at the July EAC meeting.
Bird Town Updates (JSH)	Andrew commented on the Roslyn Park native plant garden progress in its second year, success of the project and how well the gardens are doing - which is a joint STC / EAC initiative.	N/A
Abington School District Collaboration (PC and NO)	The Referendum passed. PC described the results of the vote. Thanks to everyone who volunteered with the Vote Yes to Invest team. Next steps will be	NO/PC follow up on next steps and communicate to ASD.

	to reach out to Dr. Fetcher on EAC advisory / stakeholder role for the design process.	
SPS Fire (AS)	Generators have been removed from the parking lot. Active demolition is in process. No official updates from Commissioner Vahey. There is a community website for residents to learn more about the process.	N/A
New Business Topic:	Discussion points:	Action Items/Follow-Ups:
Annual Report (KMR)	KMR will be attending the BOC on 6/12 (7:00 meeting start) to present the annual report.	N/A
Pre-Night Out (KMR)	Date: Monday, Aug 4 (5pm-8ish) Potential activity KMR described an activity that kids could do with a fill-up swimming pool and fish out plastic bags. We have lots of reusable bags that could be distributed. Another idea is to have a poster that shows all the SE PA locations.	AS to put together a poster, bring gazebo / tent. JSH to get the fishing poles. SM looking into kiddie pool. Also bring table clothes/banner.
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 meetings being back-to-back. KMR asked about changing the day and week that the EAC meets. Proposal to move to the 3 rd Weds of the month starting in 2026.	MG made a motion to change the meeting date to the 3 rd Weds of the month. Motion passed.
Development Plans: 1526 Fairview Ave (SM)	SM reviewed the response letter from the developer and EAC support for rain garden to be planted on site.	N/A
Citizens' Comments & Responses:	Discussion points:	Action Items/Follow-Ups:
None	Rene K – would like to become more active in attending EAC meetings and is currently involved in the Master Watershed program through Montgomery County. She is very supportive of the plant sale activities, the work that EAC / STC is doing, and the invasive plant management planning.	

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 8:19 PM

Next Meeting: July 9, 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