

# Abington Township Environmental Advisory Council (EAC)

## Meeting Minutes

**Date:** July 9, 2025

**Attendees:**

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

**Associate Members:** Andrea Soo (AS), Cakky Braun-Evans (CE), Elena Jada (EJ), Jennifer Sherwood (JSH), Johnny Jadach (JJ)

**Others Present:** Nathan Vasserman (Abington Township Technology Officer), Trish Gallagher, STC, Rene King, Meryl Hyatt

**Call to Order:** 7:02 pm

| <b>Approval of the minutes:</b> Minutes from the June 2025 meeting were approved              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                              |
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| <b>Treasurer's report:</b> JSO shared via email. KMR – noted deposit from the plant sale.     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                              |
| <b>Amendments to the Agenda:</b> None                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                              |
| Active Business Topic:                                                                        | Discussion points:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Action Items/Follow-Ups:                                                                                     |
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| Single Use Plastic Bag Ordinance - (KMR/AS)                                                   | No updates from KMR. Several stores have signs posted. JJ will reach out to library to get scheduled with one of the teen groups to share info generally and why this is important. Effective date is Aug 12, 2025.                                                                                                                                                                                              | N/A                                                                                                          |
| Composting Coalition Update (John / Andrea)                                                   | JS reported highlights of the SCS Food Scrap Composting Report. A total of 700 respondents to the survey. Based on survey results, residents would support a program to divert food waste unless fees are required. There is not a lot of interest at the municipal level or with surrounding municipalities for an integrated compost collection site.                                                          | JS will do some more research into the Township Code requirements and the potential for locating a facility. |
| Recycling Program Outreach                                                                    | JJ will be planning a session with Abington Library with the teen group in the fall. Date not yet decided.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                              |
| Climate Action Plan draft completion and ICLEI Membership and technical assistance (CE/MM/MG) | MG covered the SOW to do an analysis that includes a site survey, energy conservation measures, generate annual energy usage report, an analysis of how energy is used, and make recommendations for improvements. A second aspect is a feasibility analysis for installing solar panels on Township facilities and a solar canopy in the parking lot. Costs for the energy audit proposed as \$13,300 in total. | MG made a motion to approve the PES proposal and scope of work; JS seconded. All in favor.                   |
| Bird Town Updates (JSH)                                                                       | 1. On June 30, BT-PA hosted an in-person meeting of local BTs at the Upper Dublin Library (I attended). Each Bird Town shared their updates with the group. BT-PA shared updates on their programs. BT-PA would like the Bird                                                                                                                                                                                    | N/A                                                                                                          |

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|                                                    | <p>Towns to help with implementation of their new Bird-Friendly Habitat Recognition Program. Program details coming soon.</p> <p>2. Abington BT Native Plant Sale will be held at the Abington Library on Sept 27, 2025, 10:00-3:00. Plants will be ordered soon. Volunteers are needed, details will be provided next month.</p> <p>3. Abington Bird Town walks occur on the second Tuesday of each month.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Abington School District Collaboration (PC and NO) | No updates at this time. PC did reach out to Vote Yes to Committee for a summer update.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | NO/PC follow up on next steps and communicate to ASD.                                                                                                              |
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| SPS Fire (AS)                                      | No updates at this time.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | N/A                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>New Business Topic:</b>                         | <b>Discussion points:</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <b>Action Items/Follow-Ups:</b>                                                                                                                                    |
| Joint Budget Request (STC / EAC)                   | Trish Gallagher shared the request from STC to continue with the native planting park projects for the upcoming year. The second request is to reach out to the Township for \$15,000 of funding. We would like to expand this partnership to include park stewardship plans for high priority parks. The plan(s) will be focused on existing conditions and specific recommendations for the selected park. Trish suggests this will be a joint request for \$15,000 to \$20,000 for the 2026 budget. Lora Lehmann made a comment to advocate for the focused work plans that come out of these studies. Budget requests are due by July 21. Rene King also commented on the benefit of specialists looking at this issue. | JS made a motion and SM seconded to be included in the 2026 budget request.                                                                                        |
| Annual Report (KMR)                                | KMR did attend the BOC on 6/12 (7:00 meeting start) and presented the annual report.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | N/A                                                                                                                                                                |
| Pre-Night Out (KMR)                                | <p>Date: Monday, Aug 4 (5pm-8ish)</p> <p>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.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <p>AS to put together a poster, bring gazebo / tent.</p> <p>JSH to get the fishing poles.</p> <p>SM looking into kiddie pool. Also bring table clothes/banner.</p> |
| Invasive Plant Management Plan (JS, NO, KMR)       | <p>Upcoming EAC/STC joint meeting with Natural Lands for July 28, 2025.</p> <p>Discussion of community education</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | JS will request a second table for National Night Out to feature. Rene King volunteered to participate and support the table.                                      |
| Best practices for salting                         | SM discussed the need to start thinking / acting on this now rather than closer to the winter months. SM will work on outlining / developing materials.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | SM will work on materials.                                                                                                                                         |

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|                                            | Continue to pursue educational materials / signage that we could use at multiple events, e.g., the electronics recycling event in the fall.                                                                       |                                 |
| <b>Citizens' Comments &amp; Responses:</b> | <b>Discussion points:</b>                                                                                                                                                                                         | <b>Action Items/Follow-Ups:</b> |
|                                            | Rene K – location of Old York Rd and Susquehanna Rd– where buildings were removed – would like to see a public open space / something nice for the community as center of the community rather than new building. |                                 |

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM

**Next Meeting:** Aug 13, 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