

**Abington Township
Environmental Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes for July 14, 2021**

Call to Order: 7:39 pm

Attendees:

Members: Cakky Evans (CE), Michele Kaczalek (MK), Karin McGarry-Rosen (KMR), Andrea Soo (AS), John Sorrentino (JSO)

Others Present: Seth Cooley (resident)

1. **Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from the June 2021 meeting were approved.
2. **Amendments to the Agenda:**
 - Seth Cooley to provide update on Abington-Jenkintown Connection project.
3. **Reports:**
 - A. Chairperson's Report – None to report.
 - B. Treasurer's Report – Approved
4. **Committee Reports:**
 - A. Policy – Approved
 - B. Programs – Approved
 - C. Engagement – Approved
5. **Active Business**
 - A. **Energy and Climate Action Initiatives**
 1. Ready for 100 Abington Clean Energy Plan Team (ACEPT) Update
 - a) **Strategic Energy Plan Survey** – Nothing new to report.
 - b) **Township Priority Energy Opportunities** – George Wrigley attended the DEP Sustainable Wastewater Infrastructure of the Future (SWIFt) webinar to learn strategies on how to reduce the cost of wastewater treatment. AT will participate in the SWIFt program.
 - c) **Township Emissions Inventory and Energy Expenditures** – CE reported that the Township's gasoline and fuel expenditures and emission constitute over half of Township energy emission and expenditures. The other half of emissions emanate almost evenly between the Township's wastewater treatment plant alone (mostly electricity) and the other Township buildings and energy operations. Resident emissions constitute 35% of community GHG emissions, followed commercial and industrial emissions (29%) and transportation emissions (nearly 29%. This information is part of the draft Climate Action Plan's (CAP) analysis in formulating the priority objectives, strategies, and actions of the draft CAP.)
 - d) **Rebate program** – CE reported that AM and JSO are working with Mike DiDomenico (AT Traffic Signal Supervisor) on reviewing four possible options to install two electric vehicle (EV) charging stations at the Township building parking lot. This plan must be implemented by the end of September or we may apply for another EV rebate plan.
 2. Climate Action Plan (CAP) Timeline
 - a) **Update on CAP/Draft Plan Review** – CE reported that the CAP public meeting #3 had a lower turnout than the previous two public meetings. CE asks the EAC to continue to provide input and comments to the plan.
 - b) **CCGP Resolution with IPCC GHG emissions reductions** – CE reported that the CCGP resolution was unanimously approved last week by the BOC. Resolution aims to reduce GHG emissions from 2010 to 2030 by 45% and achieve "Net-zero" emissions by 2050 to establish [Milestone 2 of 5 CAP Milestones](#).
 - c) **ICLEI Review and PA DEP submission deadlines** – AM submitted our Draft CAP to ICLEI for preliminary review which resulted in ICLEI's very positive feedback about the community engagement and how Abington's draft used other technical resources outside of DEP's supplied template.
 3. 2021 CDP Cities Questionnaire Score – CDP questionnaire is in progress. Submission deadline for CDP questionnaire is 7/26. CDP will provide their "response check service" via zoom on July 21, 2021 to review the Township's response before submission.
 - B. **Development Plan Reviews** – None to report.

- C. **Rain Barrel program** – KMR reported 40 barrels were sold. Also, EAC may consider enlisting the help of Philadelphia’s [Rain Check](#) program to continue promoting the use of rain barrels in our township (if possible). KMR to reach out to the program leader.
 - D. **Montgomery Award** – EAC agreed to offer two awards this year; one for Pennoni Associates for 2020 and the other for 2021 (to be determined). EAC will inquire with AM on appropriate award process.
 - E. **Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful/Giant Market Community Improvement Grant** – Nothing new to report.
6. **New Business:**
- A. **EAC Review of Draft Climate Action Plan** – CE requests review and comments for the Draft Plan once it is formally shared with the EAC.
 - B. **Pre-Night Out Event (8/2)** – EAC agreed not to participate in this year’s Pre-Night Out event. EAC will reach out to remaining EAC members for further input.
 - C. **Paper Shred Event Staffing (7/17)** – KMR/CE agreed to prepare an EAC flier, including CAP info, for this event
 - D. **Next Vision2035 Comprehensive Plan Meeting** – Next meeting is scheduled for July 20 at 6 pm.
 - E. **Roslyn Valley Business Association (RVBA)** – The association has invited the EAC to host a table at their event on Saturday, 9/28. Participation to be determined.
 - F. **Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Open Space Plan** – Matt Vahey (Ward 12 Commissioner) informed CE he will be the Chair for this plan and will enlist 5 Abington residents (including one STC and one EAC member) to help develop the plan. This plan will be discussed at next BOC meeting.
 - G. **EAC Re-appointments** – Jessica Carswell (Ward 10 Commissioner) has asked the BOC to be more involved and CE agrees, noting that EAC already has a process to review our incumbents and outside applicants for our EAC memberships. CE would also like to improve how the EAC is defined by the Township (i.e. we are an Advisory Council, not Environmental Stewards).

7. **Citizens’ Comments and Responses:**

- Seth Cooley (SC) commented on the following:
Abington-Connection Project – SC provided an update on the project, informing the EAC that the BOC has recently revived the project based on a Committee of the Whole meeting that will discuss legal rights-of-way and easements, etc. SC has asked the EAC to follow any new developments and to advocate for the protection of trees/other natural resources and to help engage all relevant stakeholders.

The meeting adjourned at 9:23 pm

Next meeting – August 11, 2021 (In-Person, Abington Township Municipal Building Board Room)

Acronym Key:

ACEPT – Abington Clean Energy Plan Team

AM – Ashley McIlvaine, Special Assistant to the Township Manager

AT – Abington Township

BOC – Board of Commissioners

CCGP - Climate Collaborative of Greater Philadelphia

CDP – Carbon Disclosure Project

CP – Comprehensive Plan

DEP – Department of Environmental Protection

EAC – Environmental Advisory Council

EV – Electric vehicle

GHG – Greenhouse gas

ICLEI - International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (now Local Governments for Sustainability)

JSh – Jennifer Sherwood, EAC Associate Member

LCAP – Local Climate Action Program

LEED – Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design

RB – Rain barrel

Rf100 – Ready for 100

STC – Shade Tree Commission