

**Abington Township
Environmental Advisory Council (EAC)
Meeting Minutes for August 11, 2021**

Call to Order: 7:33 pm

Attendees:

Members: Cakky Evans (CE), Michele Kaczalek (MK), Karin McGarry-Rosen (KMR), John Sorrentino (JSo), Susan Myerov (SM)

Others Present: Erin Landis (Wissahickon Trails), Rick Stoneback (Charles Shoemaker Inc. Engineers & Surveyors), and Walter Draving (resident)

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from the July 2021 meeting were approved.

Reports:

- A. Chairperson's Report – None to report.
- B. Treasurer's Report – Approved

Committee Reports:

- A. Policy – None to report.
- B. Programs – Approved
- C. Engagement – Approved

Active Business

Energy and Climate Action Initiatives

A. CAP/Draft Plan Review:

- CE emailed the draft plan to review. There was no municipal review team. Need to come up with Strategy: mitigation plan to reduce GHG emissions and Adaptation: what are we going to get. Mitigation Actions need to include Township Actions and Community Wide Actions.
- CE reported that the township is looking into hybrid vehicles for the police
- **Next steps:** Draft will be sent out again and edits to the draft will be provided prior to next meeting. Time will be set in the next meeting to review all of the edits.

B. RF100 ACEPT Update

- CE reported that we do not need an RFP for the charging stations; working with JSh
- **Next steps:** May need to reapply for the rebate since we won't meet the deadline

C. 2021 CDP Cities Questionnaire

- CE reported that the CDP questionnaire is due 8/12/2021 and will be submitted.

Development Plan Reviews and Coordination

A. Rydal Park Health Center Patio Plan

- Rick Stoneback reviewed in detail the patio extension which was designed by the residents at Rydal Park in conjunction with landscape architects.
- Expanding the outdoor space was an idea that stemmed from the COVID pandemic to create more outdoor spaces for the residents
- The patio will be placed next to the building with the residents requiring the most nursing care
- Representatives from the Charles Shoemaker Inc. Engineers & Surveyors were encouraged by AT BOC President John Speigelman to come and present the plan to the EAC
- The patio plan will contain the following: a 2-way water feature, 6-9 tables with chairs, covered sunbrella area, a pathway close to the parking garage and elevator, 5 stormwater inlets will be placed on the patio extension to channel runoff to the existing underground stormwater system which discharges directly to the Meadow Brook Creek, a tributary of the Pennypack Creek. The inlets have special filters to trap and remove sediment and other

debris from entering the nearby creek. The adjacent pathways will be widened to allow wheelchair access.

- Discussed landscape plan and proximity to creek. Also asked about existing stormwater runoff discharge point and if owners considered permeable paving material alternatives. Mr. Stoneback noted that the surface of permeable pavement typically have a rough texture and may be challenging for those with mobility issues, common to the patients at this facility. He noted that traditional green infrastructure would be difficult at this site as the soils are not suitable for groundwater recharge.

B. New Life: SM reported that an addition is being added to the building and that updated plans now include a rain garden feature on the side of building which is a positive change.

C. Penn State Text Amendments: SM explained that there are two actions for approval:

- Amending the official map to rezone three parcels from R-1 (low density residential to the Community Service District (CS)
- Creating a new land use classification within the Community Service District of a College/University Use. This particular description does not exist in our ordinance, this would add design and regulatory standards for college and university facilities. SM will review in detail prior to next meeting.

D. Washington Lane Connector Project: STC/EAC submitted a joint statement in a recommendations letter

RB program – KMR reported scheduling the last RB W/S in September either 9/18 or 9/25 at Roychester Park outside. **Next steps:** KMR to check with Carole Capps for availability.

Montgomery Award

- Walter spoke about his nomination Lora Lehman and her efforts.
- **Next steps:** EAC agreed to vote electronically since not all members were present by 8/25. MK to send email of nominees.

New Business

Briar Bush Bird Feeder Cleaning Event – Briar Bush is holding a bird feeder cleaning event (drop-off 8/18 and pick-up 8/19) Registration is required. **Next steps:** EAC will promote.

Wissahickon Trails

- Erin Landis is the new Water Programs manager who spoke about the Stream Smart program around Roychester Park in Sandy Run
- Erin spoke about a direct mailing will be sent to residents in the area, a copy will be emailed for EAC members to review
- Trying to get several residents to sign up for downspout planters and schedule a massive installation event (5-6) in one day.
- Will participate in Serve the Preserve event at Overlook Elementary on 10/9 and planning a Block Party in the Spring 2022
- **Next steps:** EAC will share date for RB W/S once scheduled

Revised EAC meeting start time beginning in 2022 – EAC meeting start time will be changed to 7 pm

Vision 2035 Plan Update – Transportation Public Survey link provided. **Next steps:** Will promote on FB

BOC revision of volunteer appointment procedures at Committee of the Whole – The description of the EAC in the BOC procedures will need to be revised to reflect our advisory role.

Roslyn Business Association invite to EAC for 9/18 Roslyn Car Show – Discussed the possibility of having a table at the event. EAC members decided to not host a table. **Next steps:** CE will communicate.

Township request for review/comment of invasive species removal from AWS and BSWP – Did not receive the specifics of what materials will be used. **Next steps:** KMR will follow-up with AM, JSo will take the lead to research

Bird Town Program revisions

- Audubon Society has made a corporate decision to no longer support the program.
- Reaching out to see if any communities want to support and fund the program.

Open Space/Parks and Recreation Committee – will be discussed at next meeting.

Citizens' Comments and Responses: none reported.

The meeting adjourned at 9:56 pm

Next meeting – September 8, 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

AWS – Ardsley Wildlife Sanctuary

BOC – Board of Commissioners

BSWP – Boy Scout Wilderness Preserves

CAP – Climate Action Plan

FB – facebook

GHG – Greenhouse gas

JSh – Jennifer Sherwood, EAC Associate Member

RB – Rain barrel

RF100 – Ready for 100

RFP – Request for proposal

STC – Shade Tree Commission

W/S – Workshop