

Abington Township Environmental Advisory Council (EAC)

Meeting Minutes

Date: September 10, 2025

Attendees:

Members: John Sorrentino (JSO), Karin McGarry-Rosen (KMR), Mike Melchiorre (MM), Mitch Gertz (MG), Nancy O'Neill (NO), Susan Myerov (SM)

Associate Members: Cakky Braun-Evans (CE), Jennifer Sherwood (JSH), Johnny Jadach (JJ)

Others Present: Nathan Vasserman (Abington Township Technology Officer), Meryl Hyatt (MH)

Call to Order: 7:02 pm

Approval of the minutes: Minutes from the August meeting were approved.		
JSO shared the treasurer's report with expenses activity through 8/31/25.		
Amendments to the Agenda: Add: SPS Update, Road Salt update		
Active Business Topic:	Discussion points:	Action Items/Follow-Ups:
A. Composting Coalition Update	JSO shared information on the current status including an upcoming meeting with the regional composting coalition. Considering financing options and site options including potential for a private public partnership.	
B. Recycling Program Outreach – update (Elena/Johnny)	JJ shared that he would be hosting another Abington Library event related to recycling and youth / teen engagement. Currently they are aiming for Oct 20, pending confirmation from the library.	
C. Climate Action Plan and ICLEI Membership and technical assistance (Mitch/Mike)	Related to the Climate Action Plan, CE is looking into RFP examples. Shared energy manager – Plymouth Township is considering solar installations on public buildings. Abington's green Infrastructure projects include the dog park and Roychester Park. No other specific updates.	Check in with PennTap – CE shared questions and progressing on setting up a call about funding opportunities.
D. Bird Town Updates	JSH updates: Sunday 9/14 – native plant garden planting at the Abington Library (9-12PM); Birdtown is having an upcoming webinar on native plant ordinances; The fall Native plant sale is scheduled for 9/27 at the Abington Library.	Volunteers can sign up through email link.
E. Abington School District Collaboration	NO shared that she and Peaches are planning to meet now that school is back in session and develop a strategy for EAC involvement in the middle school design process. The design process is moving forward (June 24 meeting of the Board of School Directors, the District entered into a contract with ICS for Professional Program Management, Design Professional, and Construction	NO and PC to draft strategy

	Management Services for the Middle School) and ASD has noted that they will be conducting additional engagement sessions. The https://www.oneasdonefuture.org/ is in process of an update.	
New Business	Discussion points:	Action Items/Follow-Ups:
2026 Budget	KMR submitted budget request, Assistant Township Manager will review and provide feedback when back in the office. Related to discussion of road salt BMPs, we are waiting to hear back from Public Works. MG shared about first responder banquet recently held including township staff; related to SPS there is a 9/25 public meeting (could we consider inviting SPS to our Oct meeting on initial plans and how we can address some of the environmental concerns?)	
New business Land development proposal	SM shared that plans for the Noble Town Center (the old Bed Bath and Beyond) are proposed to split the site into 4 retail areas (reconfiguring new parking); minor land development approval will be required.	
Invasive Plant Management Plan (Jenn/Nancy/Karin)	Natural Lands (selected consultant) is currently conducting walks at the parks they are evaluating for the management plan. There will be several engagement opportunities for input and data collection.	Coordinate with Andrew Christy and STC on schedule and next steps.
Citizens' Comments & Responses:	Discussion points:	Action Items/Follow-Ups:
None		

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 7:44 pm

Next Meeting: October 08, 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
PennTap - The Pennsylvania Technical Assistance Program (PennTAP) at Penn State
SUP – Single-Use Plastics
STC – Shade Tree Commission