

Abington Township Environmental Advisory Council (EAC)

Meeting Minutes

Date: October 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)

Others Present: Nathan Vasserman (Abington Township Technology Officer), Rene King (RK)

Call to Order: 7:02 pm

Approval of the minutes: Minutes from the September meeting were tabled for review in November.		
JSO shared the treasurer's report with expenses activity through September.		
Amendments to the Agenda: None		
Active Business Topic:	Discussion points:	Action Items/Follow-Ups:
A. Composting Coalition Update (John, Andrea)	This agenda item was moved later to the meeting. JSH shared that there was a recent meeting on 9/30 to discuss potential public private partnerships for composting. Attendees from Back to Earth Composting, Abington, Cheltenham, Lower Gwynedd attended. Further outreach to Redeemer is needed to determine if a site	
B. Recycling Program Outreach – update (Johnny)	No updates	
C. Energy Initiatives (Mitch/Mike)	MM reported that energy pricing has been received at the Township and is under review; energy audits have been completed or are underway. CE shared that the platform for a new monitoring system will go into use in 2026.	
D. Bird Town Updates (Jenn)	JSH reported on the 9/25 Bird Town Zoom meeting that highlighted Lower Makefield Township's approach to improving its tree canopy. The Long Range Master Tree Plan is being developed by its EAC to manage tree canopy, as well as an ordinance for tree preservation and native planting requirements for new development. For context, Abington Township currently recommends native planting, rather than requiring. Other than an ordinance, the Abington EAC could consider updates to the SALDO and Lower Makefield Township	Volunteers can sign up through email link.

	would share recent experience and lessons learned. Abington STC is currently drafting updates a tree replacement ordinance. Other updates include: great turnout from EAC volunteers for the fall native plant sale. Discussed how fall is less popular with residents compared to the spring sale in terms of sales volume. Considering if the fall sale is worth the effort, though it is successful in reaching residents and fall is a good time to plant. RK inquired about advertising opportunities, social media outreach, and the educational / communications opportunity.	
E. Abington School District Collaboration (Peaches and Nancy)	NO and PC shared the draft letter directed to the ASD School Board members for involvement in the design process for the ASD Middle School project. EAC is looking forward to being involved in the design process and serving as an advisory / support role.	NO and PC to attend the next School Board meeting and share the EAC letter.
New Business	Discussion points:	Action Items/Follow-Ups:
2026 Budget	Discussed plans for 2026 request and remaining funds in 2025. Salt Management is a priority. We need to prioritize projects that can be funded this year.	
STC 50th Anniversary Table Event	Discussed who can volunteer (SM, JSH, and possibly CE) to attend.	
SPS Meeting	SPS Community meeting was held on Sept 26 th and presentation is online. They shared a look to the future of the planned rebuild, which will include goals for sustainability and LEED standards.	
Invasive Plant Management Meeting	Scheduled for Oct 15 th , in person at the Township building. Natural Lands has completed initial site visit.	
Citizens' Comments & Responses:	Discussion points:	Action Items/Follow-Ups:
	Roychester Park garden is in need of support. Is it possible to allocate or direct volunteers in the spring? EAC recommends starting with the Parks and Recreation Department as a starting point. MG recommends that we consider moving the citizen comments to the beginning of the agenda.	

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm

Next Meeting: November 12, 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