

**Abington Township
Environmental Advisory Council
Draft Meeting Minutes
October 9, 2024**

Call to Order: 7:04 pm

Attendees:

Members: Mitch Gertz (MG), Karin McGarry-Rosen (KMR), Mike Melchiorre (MM), Andrea Soo (AS), John Sorrentino (JSO)

Associate Members: Peaches Cooper (PC), Cakky Evans (CE), Nancy O'Neill (NO), Jim Webb (JW)

Others Present: Tim Guider (ICS/guest), Meryl Hyatt (MH, resident/volunteer), Luke (guest), Anna Nicolaides (Abington STC), Grace Sekelewski (GS, Abington Township Communications Manager), Phil Solomon (ICS/guest)

1. **Approval of Minutes** – September 2024 minutes were approved.
2. **Amendments to the Agenda:** Abington Arts light show, PA EAC Fall gathering
3. **Active Business**
 - A. **Single-Use Plastic (SUP) Ban Ordinance (Karin)** – KMR reported that the EAC is on the agenda for the BOC working session tomorrow. AS/KMR prepared ppt presentation, 70 businesses provided feedback (72% support, 22% ambivalent), revised draft to refine definitions, collected surrounding municipality feedback, collected anniversary bags/donated bags to give away
 - B. **Composting Coalition Update (John)** – JSO reported that SRC has not come up with a survey, study of ordinances, or recommendations. JSO presented summary and recommendations for initiating a composting program.
 - C. **Recycling Program Outreach (EJ)** – Paper shred event is Oct 19.
Action item: AS will reach out to John Dubeck (Family Promise) if support is needed.
 - D. **Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program** – AT received \$118,250 grant for electric vehicle charging installation.
 - E. **Climate Action Plan Draft Completion, ICLEI Membership, and technical assistance (CE)** – Nothing to report.
 - F. **Bird Town updates (JSH)** – Native plant sale made \$395. No further updates.
 - G. **Abington School District Collaboration (CE/Peaches/Nancy)** – Tim Guider and Phil Solomon (ICS) introduced themselves as the points-of-contact for the LEED sustainability/net zero initiative feasibility study related to Abington Middle School re-design. EAC and ICS discussed how we can collaborate with one another and engage the community in an effective manner, discussed sustainable building materials, HVAC/air quality, educational space, daylighting, solar energy, shade trees, and collaborative/informative website.
Action item: ICS will review sustainability checklist and provide recommendations/improvements.
 - H. **SEPTA slope project** – No new updates. Broke ground, cleared out brush, no further reports from residents.
 - I. **STC tree give-away** – Scheduled for Oct 26 from 9-12 at Crestmont Park. Andrew Christy (STC) will provide more details soon, JSH will be volunteering.
4. **New Business**
 - A. **EAC Membership** – NO will fulfill Michele's rest of term (through end of year) and will receive an invitation from AT. JSO made motion that NO become full member; motion was approved.
 - B. **NAACP Banquet**– CE will send the flyer about the dinner invitation scheduled for Sun, Oct 20, at Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel where EAC will be honored (among others). JSO made motion to approve \$125 (half page ad) in NAACP advertising booklet; motion was approved.
 - C. **Load study for EV charging stations (panel upgrades going in)** – CE sent an email to EAC that 6K is required to do wiring configuration for the EV charging stations planned. MG made a motion to approve 6K

backup funding for load study. AM will try to fit in already budgeted items, but EAC will cover funds via Sustainability Fund, if not.

- D. **Abington Art Center project** – AS summarized a community meeting at Abington Art Center (Mon, 10/7) that presented the planned installation of a temporary light and sound show this winter in the Sculpture Garden by a contracted vendor.
- E. **State-wide EAC Fall Gathering** – JSO summarized in-person event. WeConservePA is hosting a website that includes everyone's ppt presentations from the event. Topics included energy audits, electrification, meadows, and renewable energy.
- F. **Abington Fall Fest** – MM, PC, SM, KMR attended. Activities included light switch decorating, recycling magnet/reuseable bag giveaway, recycling toss game, and educating about the draft SUP ordinance.
- G. **Briar Bush Nature Center** – EAC engaged with Ben Sanchez.

5. **Citizens' Comments and Responses** - None

6. Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Next meeting – **November 13, 2024** ([Virtual](#)) at **7 PM**

Acronym Key:

AT – Abington Township

BOC – Board of Commissioners

BT – PA Bird Town

CAP – Climate Action Plan

CP – Comprehensive Plan

EAC – Environmental Advisory Council

EV – Electric vehicle

GHG – Greenhouse gas

LEED – Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design

STC – Shade Tree Commission

SUP – Single-Use Plastics

TTFWP – Tookany-Tacony Frankford Watershed Partnership

USGBC – U.S. Green Building Council