

**Abington Township
Environmental Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes for October 12, 2022**

Call to Order: 7:00 pm

Attendees:

Members: Cakky Evans (CE), Michele Kaczalek (MK), Karin McGarry-Rosen (KMR), Sue Myerov (SM), Andrea Soo (AS), John Sorrentino (JSO), Jim Webb (JW)

Associate Members: Peaches Cooper, (PC), Jennifer Sherwood (JSh)

Others Present: Ross Abel (resident), Nathan Vasserman (IT Officer, Abington Township), Jim Wylie (West Chester Borough Sustainability Advisory Committee Vice Chair/Sierra Club PA Chapter Chair)

1. **Approval of Minutes:** September 2022 minutes approved
2. **Amendments to the Agenda** – None
3. **Reports below were shared and discussed:**
 - A. Chairperson's Report
 - B. Treasurer's Report
4. **Committee Reports below were shared and discussed:**
 - A. Policy – None
 - B. Programs
 - C. Engagement
5. **Active Business**
 - A. **Climate Action Draft Plan (CAP) and Shared Energy Manager Program** – Nothing new to report.
 - B. **Shared Energy Manager Survey** – Nothing new to report.
 - C. **Other Energy and Climate Action Initiatives**
 1. LEED for Cities Certification – Discussed status of LfC narratives and when to schedule a check-in meeting before the deadline.
 2. Climate Change Legislation/Strategies – Nothing new to report.
 3. Ready for 100 Abington Clean Energy Plan Team (ACEPT) Update and PACleanEnergy.com website – Nothing new to report.
 4. Level 2 EV Charging Stations Rebate Program – Nothing new to report.
 5. Municipal Energy Procurement and Efficiency Next Steps – Nothing new to report.
 - D. **Development Plan and Zoning Review and Coordination** – SM submitted EAC comments on 9/22 to the Planning Commission for the 521 Moredon Rd solar panel array proposal.
 - E. **Vision2035 Comprehensive Plan Development** – Next meeting is Wednesday (9/28) at 6 pm.
 - F. **Rain Barrel program** – KMR/JW continuing to collect donated rain barrels. KMR will not be ordering any new supplies for the rain barrels at this time. EAC will hold one more RB workshop in the spring and then end the program. EAC will advertise other RB resources to bridge the gap.
 - G. **Bird Town Events** – JSh reported great attendance and sales for the 9/24 native plant sale at Abington Library. Native plant garden tour is scheduled at home of JSh on 10/15 from 10-12. The Bird Town Resolution is on the November agenda for the BOC meeting.
 - H. **Plastic Bag Ban Update** – AS reported the executive summary and draft single-use plastics ordinance is still in development.
 - I. **Composting update** – The first meeting for the composting coalition (sub-group of the Single-Use Plastics Coalition) is scheduled for 11/2 at 7 pm; JSO and AS to support this effort.
 - J. **Montgomery Award** – JW is waiting on Abington Township response on what to do for 2022 nominees.
 - K. **EAC Fall Gathering** – Event is scheduled for 10/22 at Haverford Community and Environmental Center and organizers are seeking participants.

6. New Business:

- A. **Recreation, Parks, and Open Space Advisory Committee** – Commissioner Matt Vahey (Ward 12) is leading the formation of this committee, but has not provided details yet on appointing an official member from the EAC. KMR attended the pre-public brainstorming meeting to discuss:
- Park improvements
 - ADA compliance in parks and open space
 - Bike/sidewalk master plan
 - Distributing a public survey to gauge interest and collect opinions
 - First public meeting scheduled for 10/19 at 7 pm
- B. **Guest Speaker:** Jim Wylie (West Chester Borough Sustainability Advisory Committee Vice Chair) reviewed the PAcleanenergy.com website which is being developed as a learning library for clean energy for local government. He asked EAC members to join as contributing members and/or steering committee members, if interested.

7. Citizens' Comments and Responses:

- Ross Abel asked EAC for an update on the status of the Bike/Sidewalk Master Plan (walkability, bike paths, etc.) for our township. EAC did not have an update yet and will review our current plan and determine its status and next steps.

The meeting adjourned at 9:01 pm

Next meeting – November 9, 2022 ([Virtual](#)) at **7 PM**

Acronym Key:

AT – Abington Township
BOC – Board of Commissioners
CAP – Climate Action Plan
CP – Comprehensive Plan
EAC – Environmental Advisory Council
EV – Electric vehicle
GHG – Greenhouse Gas
ICLEI - International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives
LCAP – Local Climate Action Program
LEED – Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design
LFC&C – LEED for Cities and Communities
PADEP – Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
Rf100 – Ready for 100
RFP – Request for Proposal
STC – Shade Tree Commission
USGBC – U.S. Green Building Council