

**Abington Township
Environmental Advisory Council
DRAFT Meeting Minutes for November 9, 2022**

Call to Order: 7:05 pm

Attendees:

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

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

Others Present: Nathan Vasserman (IT Officer, Abington Township)

1. **Approval of Minutes:** October 2022 minutes were 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 – Brief update was provided on LfC narratives submitted for Quality of Life Trend Improvements, Rain Barrel Program, and Plastics Ban initiative. Ashley McIlvaine asked EAC members to submit their LfC narratives/updates by Monday, 11/14.
 2. Climate Change Legislation/Strategies – Nothing new to report.
 3. Ready for 100 Abington Clean Energy Plan Team (ACEPT) Update and PACleanEnergy.com website – EAC mentioned email invitation sent by CE from Melissa Laffen for the Southeast PA Clean Energy / Ready for 100 Regional Conference that is taking place virtually on Zoom on Nov 15, 17, and 19. CE encouraged members to participate.
 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** – Brief mention of a new restaurant, Raising Cane's, proposed for Willow Grove.
 - E. **Vision2035 Comprehensive Plan Development** – JW mentioned next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Nov 15 at 6 pm.
 - F. **Rain Barrel program** – KMR updated RB map through 2021. AS/JSh will support KMR with any residents seeking RB installation assistance.
 - G. **Bird Town Events** – JW mentioned that the Bird Town Resolution will likely be moved to the BOC meeting's December agenda.
 - H. **Plastic Bag Ban Update** – AS will provide a final draft of the executive summary and draft single-use plastics ordinance to EAC members for review in approximately one week.
 - I. **Composting update** – JSO noted the first meeting for the composting coalition (sub-group of the Single-Use Plastics Coalition) on 11/2 went well. Media Borough member provided a great, detailed presentation on how they developed a township-wide composting service. Attendees were divided into four major task groups and will reconvene on Wed, 11/30.
 - J. **Montgomery Award** – Nothing new to report. JW is waiting on Abington Township response on what to do for 2022 nominees.
 - K. **EAC Fall Gathering** – No meeting attendees attended event; nothing to report.

6. New Business:

- A. **Use of Township platform for EAC newsletter distribution** – EAC members discussed if we should switch platforms since we have exceeded the capacity of our current Mailchimp system. KMR will find out what the level of effort will be to migrate to the new platform. AS will help provide a links summary for our EAC website when we transition.
- B. **Hallowell Park Improvement Plan** – No response yet from Parks and Recreation on the improvement plan sent by STC/EAC on 10/17.
- C. **Recreation, Parks, and Open Space Plan focus group** – KMR summarized the first public meeting held on 10/19 which involved members of various athletic clubs and other community members who sought to improve recreational spaces in the township. With good feedback from the brainstorming meeting (before the first public meeting), the contracted landscaping company provided a thorough summary of each of the parks and open spaces in the township. A focus group (for this committee) is scheduled to have their first virtual meeting on 11/15 at 6:30 pm (members TBD). JSh will attend for Bird Town and one or two others are also invited to join.
- D. **2023 Transition Planning** – Key discussion items included:
 - JW will not be renewing his membership
 - KMR and SM will soon decide if they will renew their membership or not
 - JW encouraged others, including associate members, to consider becoming appointed members
 - EAC will provide formal requests to fill any vacant member positions to the BOC before the end of the year so that interviews and new appointments can happen by Jan-Feb timeframe of next year.

7. Citizens' Comments and Responses - None

The meeting adjourned at 8:22 pm

Next meeting – December 14, 2022 ([Virtual](#)) at 7 PM

Acronym Key:

AT – Abington Township

CAP – Climate Action Plan

CP – Comprehensive Plan

EAC – Environmental Advisory Council

EV – Electric vehicle

LCAP – Local Climate Action Program

LEED – Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design

LFC&C – LEED for Cities and Communities

Rf100 – Ready for 100

STC – Shade Tree Commission