

**Abington Township
Environmental Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes November 18, 2015**

Call to Order: 7:32 In attendance: Jennifer Sherwood, Cakky Evans, Michele Kaczalek, Susan Myerov, Andrea Soo, John Sorrentino, Jim Webb, Karin McGarren Rosen
Guest: Nicholas Macelko, Ryan Devlin and Jagger Mackenzie from Troop 72, Bill Mettler of Citizens Climate Lobby, Patrick Cunnane from People for Bikes, Cathy Gautier from the Abington Township Planning Commission, Akire Bubar of the Tookany Taconey Frankford Watershed Partnership (TTFWP)
Presenters: Geoff Creary of Simon Collins, Rita and Glen Stevens of the Shade Tree Commission

Minutes: The report was accepted.

Prior to starting the presentations, Jennifer Sherwood summarized the purpose of the EAC and its activities to the two members from Troop 72 who were there to fulfill a badge requirement.

Geoff Creary of Simon Collins presented the highlights of the Proposed Abington Master Bike Plan which is available at Abington.Org. He stated that the Plan was developed based on the wants of residents and also to link various Septa Transit Stations. After summarizing the various sections of the Plan, Geoff then gave an overview of Abington, which is densely built up with many narrow roads which would require the use of Sharrow in many locations. An application has been made to the Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) to fund the project beginning with identified short term routes. Comments are due in by the end of the month.

Bill Mettler then summarized Cheltenham's progress in identifying possible bike trails through an assessment of its intersections and streets. As 9 State roads (which Cheltenham would be responsible for once they are marked up for bike lanes) cut through Cheltenham, 25 roads would require Sharrow, and taking the high cost of bike lanes into consideration, Cheltenham has decided only the Tookany Tacony Parkway could sustain a bike trail.

Rita Stevens then gave an update on the Ardsley Wildlife area. She explained the logistics of the alternative plan she and Glen Stevens had presented to Abington Township to avoid the loss of 100 to 200 large trees by utilizing the existing retention basin and a natural drainage area when implementing stormwater management on the property. Glen has spoken with Mike Powers as to whether there would be a need for an engineering study to be performed on the property. Questions remain: how should impact on the receiving stream be handled; how would it fit in with the MS4Program if handled as a separate project; how does this overlay with the proposed AT stormwater ordinance. Rita will speak with township regarding the long term plan for MS4 money. Sue

Myerov will speak with Temple people regarding the Sandy Run. John, Glen and Sue will meet to discuss the issues and look over the retention basins.

Bill Mettler reviewed the handout on how a carbon fee and dividend would work. 99% of the fees collected would go to citizens funneled through the IRS. It is hoped that Republican sponsorship of the bill in congress would happen before the climate talks at the end of this month. He is recommending that EAC members meet with each commissioner individually to describe the program and get their permission to get an endorsement. Bill then asked if we would consider letting him use the Abington EAC as an endorser and Cakky Evans as the contact. He would help do the presentation to the Abington BOC. John Sorrentino volunteered to further investigate the issue. Individuals can endorse Carbon Fee and Dividend through the web site.

Chairperson's Report: The report was accepted.

Secretary/ Treasurer's Report: The treasurer's report was accepted.

Committee Reports:

Administration: The report was accepted.

Energy and Sustainability: The report was accepted as corrected.

Land Planning: The report was accepted.

Public Relations: The report was accepted.

Watersheds, Storm Water, Restoration: The report was accepted as corrected. Karen McGarry Rosen reported that 141 rain barrels have been sold to date. She then requested that the stickers be removed from the barrels when Jim Webb picks them up.

Current Business: **Go Green Rewards Card** – Cakky and Karin will update fliers for added businesses. Cakky will also follow up with the MCCC.

STAR – Cakky, John and Andrea will get together to work on STAR.

Rain Barrel Program – Karin will prepare a map showing the distribution of the rainbarrels throughout the Township.

New Business: **Tookany Creek Flood Study** – There is a 30 day period for submitting comments on the addition of 9 retention basins, 3 of which would be in Abington. All comments should be in by December 14th. Sue will talk with Commissioner Farren and Karin will speak with Commissioner Spiegelman.

Stormwater Pollution and Water quality - Sue recapped the 11/16 meeting hosted by TTFWP which covered permit requirements for communities regulated by the MS4 program. The public will have opportunities to participate in a review of municipal stormwater plans including TMDL. Sue stated that

Abington has its current permit approved. Design details are due in March, but the date may be extended.

Audubon – Jennifer summarized the bird walk she and Leigh Altadonna held on November 17th.

Roslyn Park – Tim Ferry of Troop 201 has approval from Doug Wendell and will work with Jim Webb on the riparian buffer and the rain garden clean-up at Roslyn Park. Volunteers are needed to help

Energy Expo Recap – Jim proposed that for future workshops, the number of presenters be cut back to allow enough time for each one to do a full presentation. The alternative he also proposed was to have the Expo held as a series over a two day period.

The meeting adjourned at 10:02

Next Meeting –December 9, 2015