

Abington Township

Environmental Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes February 10, 2016

Call to Order: 7:30 pm In attendance: Jennifer Sherwood, Cakky Evans, Andrea Soo, John Sorrentino, Susan Myerov, Karin McGarry-Rosen and Jim Webb

Guests: George Wrigley (Abington Township), Amy Hopf, Tom Horn, Bob Greaves

Minutes: The report was accepted as amended by Cakky.

Wastewater & Wissahickon Phosphorous Alternative Plan Update: George Wrigley provided an update on status of the Total Maximum Daily Limit (TMDL) for phosphorous from area wastewater treatment plants (WWTP). The WWTP operators and sixteen local municipalities are working together to determine viable alternatives to meeting the proposed TMDL. These municipalities have adopted a formal resolution to jointly work towards attaining the TMDL in the Wissahickon watershed. This resolution has been submitted to the PA Department of Environmental Protection's (PADEP) Regional Office in Norristown. The WWTP operators have submitted a plan to evaluate existing WWTP's ability to reduce phosphorous and will pilot individual plant improvements and evaluate outcomes. Additionally, a consultant (Hall Associates) was hired to evaluate the water quality modeling undertaken by EPA to establish this TMDL. Sue Myerov reported on her presentation to Springfield Township regarding the phosphorous TMDL.

Chairperson's Report: The report was accepted. We discussed establishing a liaison for Abington Friends School and St. Basils Academy. Sue (Abington Friends) and Jim (St. Basils) agreed to do so. Jenn will provide contact info.

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

Committee Reports:

Administration: The report was accepted.

Energy and Sustainability: The report was accepted.

Land Planning: The report was accepted.

Public Relations: The report was accepted.

Watersheds, Storm Water, Restoration: The report was accepted.

Current Business:

Tookany Creek Flood Study comments – Jenn provided a brief update for the attendees followed by an update. The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) will now conduct separate feasibility studies for Abington and Cheltenham Townships rather than a combined one. Combined EAC comments to be submitted by February 22, 2016 to USACE with copies to the Township Commissioners and Township Manager.

STAR Communities Program – Cakky reported that she obtained an extension for submission of the Township’s information for STAR accreditation to April 11, 2016. She continues to work on completing the required information for accreditation. The township is not strong in the evaluation areas of Built Environment and Climate and Energy. Cakky continues to work with staff at Penn State Abington to explore student participation in this process. Cakky made a motion that the Township should become a Member community in the STAR Program at a cost of \$500. This will ensure our continued participation until February 2017. The motion was seconded and passed. Cakky said that the “scholarship” the Township was granted last year expires at the end of February but we will continue working towards certification.

New Business:

Events -

2/13 (9 to 11 am): Jenn to participate in the Great Backyard Bird Count at the Briar Bush Nature Center.

2/16 (8:30 to 10 am): Jenn to participate in the Abington Audubon Bird Town Talk (Pennypack Trail)

2/27 (9 am to 1 pm): Cakky and Andrea to participate in the Township e-cycling event at the Florey Lane facility.

Spring Event Planning -

RMCA Summit: Summit to be held to discuss future plans and activities as per Cakky.

Rain Barrel workshops:

Workshop dates: June 18 at the Abington Training Center (10 am); May 26 at the Abington Library (7 pm); April 23 at the Ardsley Community Center (time?)

Earth Day Cleanups: The following cleanups were discussed:

Hallowell Park (Andrea)

Crosswicks Park (Jenn)

Keswick Area Cleanup (w/ Cheltenham EAC) – April 30

Abington HS Service Day – June 3

Roychester Park – TBD (John and Jim)

School Fairs; Discussed whether to participate as in past years and decided to participate depending on dates scheduled.

Website Updates – Jenn encourages members to provide comments on the Township website and comments as well as content for the EAC website

Other Business – Tom Horn, a Primex employee, offered to work with the EAC especially in the spring and fall on opportunities for workshops and presentations.

Discussed the Township floodplain ordinance revisions, which reflect required Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) changes. The changes are to be presented at the February 11, 2016 Board of Commissioners meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm

Next Meeting – March 9, 2016