

**Abington Township**  
**Environmental Advisory Council**  
**Meeting Minutes January 13, 2016**

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

Guests: Nick Macelko, Phil Coates, Amy Hopf

**Minutes:** The report was accepted.

**Chairperson's Report:** The report was accepted.

**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** - US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is proposing 3 water retention basins in Abington (all to be located in Baederwood Park). This proposal is outlined in a Feasibility Study to address flood control in the Tookany Creek watershed, with the main impact in Cheltenham Township. Public comment is due to USACE by 1/22/2016. Four groups (Abington EAC, Abington Shade Tree Commission, DelawareRiver

Keepers Network and TTF) will provide comments with copies to be given to the Township Commissioners. Jenn recommended that each EAC member provide their comments individually as well. Comments should address water Quality improvements and use of green infrastructure in addition to flood control. Mr. Coates, an Abington Township resident, provided us with some historical background on existing flood control structures as well as his concerns regarding the USACE proposal. He will share his written comments with the EAC and the Township Commissioners. A copy of the EAC's comments will be provided to Mr. Coates.

**STAR Communities Program** - Cakky stated that she has completed about 40% of the required documentation to receive a three star rating. Submission of the evaluation is due to the STAR Communities organization by the end of February. Cakky believes that it is possible that the Township may reach the lowest level of certification. Upon completion of the submittal, Cakky recommends undertaking the STAR Community "21 Indicators" pilot (Cakky provided a handout which identifies the differences between STAR Certification and the 21 Indicators). A discussion followed regarding next steps if STAR submission results in certification or not. If certified, that certification lasts for 3 years. If not certified, the Township has the option of continuing as a member community for \$500/year and may pursue certification in the future. To pursue future certification, it would require continuing as a reporting community with access to the online reporting tool and the annual cost is \$1500. Recertification or certification would cost an additional \$1500. The cost to continue to participate as a member community in order to be a part of the STAR Indicators program is \$500 for the next year. A motion was made to participate in the STAR Indicators pilot in 2016 and continue as a member community. The motion passed 4-3. Cakky has 2 meetings upcoming: one with Penn State Abington officials and another with the Rydal/Meadowbrook Civic Association.

**2015 Annual Report Preparation** - Jenn has received some reports but needs the remaining ones within 2 weeks to submit to the Commissioners.

**Planning for 2016** - The following items were discussed:

Tree planting for the Montgomery Award - Consensus was not to do so.

New assignments were proposed for EAC members to monitor various commissioner subcommittees. Assignments accepted.

New Abington Township website: Jenn asked members to view the new website and send comments to the Township.

**New Business:**

**By-Laws Update** - In reviewing the By-Laws, it was noted that there was not a provision for a Treasurer position. A motion was made to add the Treasurer position. Motion passed. Michele was nominated to continue in the Treasurer position. Michele accepted the nomination and was approved unanimously.

**Associate Member renewals** - The following Associate Members were renewed or approved as new members: Joel Schilling, Karin McGarry-Rosen, Nicholas Macelko and Amy Hopf.

The meeting adjourned at 9:41 pm

Next Meeting – February 10, 2016