October 17, 2011 7:30 p.m.
Township Administration Building

The regular meeting of the Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) was held tonight. Voting members present were: Barbara Duffy, Bill Mettler, Miriam Moss and Lorna Rosenberg. Ex officio member, Jonathan Essoka, was present. Other interested public in attendance were: Dottie Baumgarten, Deb Gibby, Glen Harris, Bonnie Hay, Robert Hyslop and Tom McHugh. (See attached attendance sheet).

1. ***Call to Order*** – Vice Chair Duffy called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

2. ***Acceptance of Meeting Minutes*** – Ms. Rosenberg made a motion to approve the September 19, 2011 meeting minutes as submitted; seconded by Mr. Mettler. The motion was unanimously approved.

3. ***Presentation*** – Mr. Glen Harris, RLA, of Renew Design Group Consultants working with Gilbert Architects on the landscape architecture design plans for the reconstruction of Cheltenham Elementary School, was present to give a brief review of the current landscape design around the school property. Mr. Harris stated that the current land development plans were submitted in July and must be reviewed by the Shade Tree Commission and Public Works Committee. Mr. Harris stated that from a LEED design standpoint, the new school will have recycled building materials such as terrazzo flooring and low emitting materials will be used. The mechanical system was designed with air side recovery with a heat exchange boiler, water cooled heat, water conservation fixtures and building automation controls.

Members questioned Mr. Harris about a life cycle analysis of the energy equipment as well as future energy consumption savings, percentage increase in roof area, impervious surface area, parking spaces, stormwater management systems for parking lot and roof runoff, and underground infiltration system. Mr. Harris stated that a cistern will be utilized for two sides of the building to capture and reuse the rain water for landscaping purposes. Ms. Rosenberg

questioned whether a cistern could be used to capture water for flushing toilets inside the building as one way to reduce runoff and water use. Mr. Harris stated that in order for the cistern to be used for this purpose, it would require a double piping system. There was concern about the proportion of surface water runoff from the site into the nearby Tookany Creek. Mr. Mettler asked if swales could be utilized and Mr. Harris stated that the bio retention plan has a step down effect. There being no further questions, Ms. Duffy thanked Mr. Harris for his presentation. The EAC agreed to draft a report of concerns and have Ms. Rosenberg address the School Board members.

4. ***Committee Reports*** -

A. *Energy Committee* – Mr. Mettler reported on an upcoming local event, The Turtle Artisans Tour on Saturday, October 22-23, 2011. Local artists will provide open studio tours of their artwork at various locations in the Township. Bicycle advocates from various groups within the Township will be biking to various locations and have drawn up a map outlining the route. (See attached).

B. Watershed Committee – Ms. Duffy reported as follows:

The Pennsylvania Environmental Council (PEC) had not as yet completed a draft sample resolution regarding guidelines for statewide monitoring of natural gas drilling concerning regulation and oversight of the Marcellus Shale Drilling in Pennsylvania but expects to have it completed in the near future. It was suggested that perhaps Cheltenham EAC along with the Tookany-Tacony/Frankford Watershed Partnership (TTFWP) could host a regional meeting along with the other Montgomery County EAC's to discuss this topic and its potential impacts on the Delaware River Watershed Basin.

Ms. Duffy also noted that the Tree Vitalize Riparian Buffer Planting at Parkview Park is scheduled for November 5, 2011 from 9-4 p.m. If anyone is interested in participating please join us.

Ms. Duffy will be meeting with Karen Saffran at Cedarbrook Middle School on October 28, 2011 to brainstorm for the 2012 Community Earth Day Festival.

The Riparian Corridor Conservation Draft Ordinance is being amended by the County Planner based on the recommendation from last month's Ad Hoc Zoning Committee meeting and will be reviewed by Township Staff.

The Native Plant ordinance draft is completed and needs to be moved to the next step in the administrative review process.

Ms. Duffy reported that about 100 CFL light bulbs were given out at the Community Harvest Festival held last weekend. Many residents were interested in the watershed map that was on display. Labeled and lidded recycling bins were provided. However, some attendees ignored the labeling.

Ms. Duffy attended the 1st Annual Flood Festival on Sunday, October 16, 2011. The event helped raise funds for the Glenside Fire Company.

Ms. Duffy reported on the outcome of the Watershed Committee Ad Hoc Meeting on October 9, 2011 to review Township flood maps and make recommendations regarding stormwater flooding issues and concerns of Township residents. Ms. Duffy reviewed the committee's recommendations. (See attached). Upon review and discussion the members asked what the next steps to be taken are. Ms. Duffy stated the next steps would be to identify the various neighborhood flood groups. These groups have already established Face Book & website communications for their affected areas which may contain an e-mail distribution list or outreach being done by a block or a number of blocks. They should hold a meeting and identify

the particular problems unique to their group. Discussion ensued and it is still to be determined how they will interface with the EAC.

Ms. Moss, speaking about her Elkins Park neighborhood along Brookside and Shoemaker Roads, asked who might provide specimen bottles for collecting water samples of the water found in their basements. She was directed to the Montgomery County Board of Health. She felt information about Flood Restoration Service companies should be made available and that all of these items should be put on the Township's website.

C. Transportation Committee – Mr. McHugh reported that he was happy to advocate for the support of the Turtle Tour.

D. Buildings Committee – Ms. Rosenberg stated that she will send comments to the Architects for Cheltenham Elementary School Project. Ms. Rosenberg was happy to report that six students and a facilities staff member will attend a Delaware Valley Green Building Council Workshop on October 21, 2011 in an effort to create a culture of conservation.

Ms. Rosenberg announced that the Cheltenham Sustainable Plan is moving forward and the Visioning Workshop Part 2 will be held at Arcadia University at the Mirror Room on Thursday, November 3, 6:30 – 9:30 p.m.

E. Communications Committee – Ms. Duffy stated that there was no report from the nominating committee for selection of a new committee chair. Mr. Havir stated that letters of interest along with a resume could be submitted. Mr. Havir noted that the Township Manager usually sends letters in November to current committee members whose terms are expiring and vacancies, as well as advertising on the Township website.

5. *Old Business*:

A. Website Development – Ms. Duffy tabled this discussion to the November meeting.

B. EAC Vision Statement – Ms. Duffy tabled this discussion to the November meeting.

6. New Business – Mr. Havir noted that the next Tree Vitalize grant is due December 1, 2011 FY 2012. Mr. Havir suggested filing for a Phase II Parkview Park Planting in the amount of $10,000. Ms. Duffy made a motion to recommend authorization to file for Tree Vitalize grant funding in the amount of $10,000 for Parkview Park Planting, Phase II; seconded by Ms. Moss and unanimously approved.

Mr. Havir reported that he received a news release regarding environmental education grants available from the Department of Environmental Protection in the amount of $7,500 with an 80/20 match. There is a pre-application due November 11, 2011 and a formal application due on 12-16-11. Discussion ensued and members felt that Ms. Baumgarten, who was familiar with this particular DEP grant program, could come up with an idea for the grant concerning best management practices for stormwater. Ms. Baumgarten will follow up and coordinate with Mr. Havir. The EAC recommended filing the application.

7. Other Business – Mr. Havir reviewed the Montgomery County Open Space report highlighting some of the projects that were funded through County grants such as the tree planting grants, acquisition of High School Park and Robinson Park, and a streambank restoration project at Ralph Morgan Park. Pending applications include tree planting projects in Elkins Park, Wyncote, Cheltenham Village and Laverock, as well as Wall Park Design Plan III & IV and other streambank restoration projects below Central Avenue.

8. Announcements – Mr. Havir announced that the Township received grant funding in the amount of $1,650 for a joint mural arts project with Abington and Cheltenham Township EAC's for the SEPTA underpass on Keswick Avenue near Mt. Carmel Avenue. The EAC's will fundraise $750.00 as part of its commitment to help with the matching funds. The project needs to be completed before July 2012.

Mr. Havir also announced that Cheltenham Township will be hosting an electronic-recycling event on November 19, 2011 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Cheltenham High School at 500 Rices Mill Road, Wyncote for Township residents. Three volunteers from TTFWP will assist with registering participants.

9. Adjournment – Ms. Duffy made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Ms. Rosenberg. The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

David G. Kraynik,
Township Manager

Submitted by:
Kathryn McDevitt

MEETING ATTENDANCE

Environmental Advisory Council

Monday, October 17, 2011 @ 7:30 P.M.

Township Administration Building
8230 Old York Road, Elkins Park, PA 19027

(Please Print Clearly)

Name	E-mail or Other Contact Info, if desired	Member (Y/N)
Glenn Harris (Renew)	glennharris@renewdesigngroup.com	N
~~BILL MEHLER~~	you've got it!	Y
ROBERT HYSLOP	215-886-0813	N
Miriam Moss	mossm@acadia.edu	y
Tom McHugh	tom.mchugh@monitordata.com	y
Dottie Baumgarten	dottiebaumgarten@gmail.com	N
BONNIE XIAY	BELH@VERIZON.NET	ex officio
Jonathan Essoka	jessoka@verizon.net	Y
Deb Gibby	DebGibby@AOL.com	
Barbara Duffy	beduffy@comcast.net	Y
LORNA Rosenberg		

Building [illegible]ltenham's Bike Culture
Two Energy Co[illegible]rvation Projects Interconnect

Saturday & Sunday, October 22 and [illegible]are when the Turtle Artisans Tour is happening in Cheltenham Twp!
20 studios and "gallery spaces" acro[illegible]he township will open their doors to the citizenry of our town.
The artisans say, "You'll never have [illegible]go to the mall again!" Right here in your own community you can obtain beautiful [illegible]d crafted items and works of art all locally created. Think of your shrinking ca[illegible] footprint having circumnavigated all those fossil fuel intensive mass produced mall [illegible]erings from far away!
Peak Oil and Climate Change will [illegible] further mitigated by the Bike Route Crew—a collection of bike advocates from t[illegible]eltenham: EAC, Citizens Sustainability Committee, Transition Teams, and [illegible] are inviting all who would like to join them in a Turtle Artisans Tour Adventure on [illegible]ls, starting at Elcy's Café, Glenside Train Station at 2 PM. You can do a half-adve[illegible]h us by touring points A through E or do the "Full Monty" by continuing to poi[illegible] through P on the Turtle Map.
(www.TurtleArtTour.com)
If you want to join the adventure ca[illegible]r email:
Bill Mettler, 215 885-8936 or W[illegible]r3@aol.com

Watershed Committee Report: EAC Meeting October 17, 2011

* No word from PEC regarding their draft of a sample referendum for municipalities regarding the Marcella Shale environmental issues. A meeting is set up with TTF Partnership to discuss possible collaboration for a speaker and presentation in the near future on the watershed impacts of the Marcella Shale Drilling. If we can time this with the completion of the PEC sample referendum then we may invite regional EAC's.

* **Fall TreeVitalize Planting at Parkview Park was postponed until Saturday, November 5th from 9am to 4pm—**

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS! Flyers and emails have gone out at Cedarbrook Middle School. Emails were sent to Melrose Neighborhood Association, Temple U teachers, Arcadia U's Environmental Club and TTF. We are looking for volunteers to send out flyers to the neighbors of the park. EAC email blast will go out this next week.

***Planning for the 2012 Cheltenham Community Earth Day Festival will begin soon.** We will have a brainstorming meeting coming up on Friday 10/28 at Cedarbrook MS.

***Riparian Corridor Conservation District Ordinance Draft** went to the Ad Hoc Zoning committee on September 26th and was reviewed and approved with minor changes.

* **Native Plant ordinance-** this draft ordinance is completed and still needs to move onto the next step, but is on hold due to the focus on the Riparian Corridor Ordinance.

* **A watershed/flooding ad hoc committee** meeting was convened on **Sunday, October 9th** to discuss the flooding issues as requested at the September EAC meeting. (Please see attached report.)

*The **EAC had a table at the Harvest Festival on Saturday, October 15th** and we gave out about 100 PECO's free CFL bulbs and addressed issues regarding the flooding. Many people were interested in the Watershed map that we had on display. A few residents let us know about their personal flooding concerns and where they lived. (Some have never had flooding prior to the last storm.) There were no resident complaints about the recycling. The new lidded and labeled recycling bins give festival goers a clear demonstration that Cheltenham was serious about recycling; unfortunately, later reports from John Hoover indicated that many folk ignored the labeling and placed food and trash in the recycling bins. He agreed that we will brainstorm some other ideas for next year.

*Attended the **1st Annual Flood Fest** on Sunday, October 16th . It was well attended by community members. Too soon to know the outcome of the funds raised for the Glenside Fire Department. Did learn from conversations that some residents are not clear on how the Brookdale Avenue Pump Station works and that many support a whole watershed approach to studying the flooding problems. Concerns were voiced about the impact of development in the headwaters in both Cheltenham and Abington Townships.

Submitted by Barbara Duffy

A
Elcy's Cafe
1 W. Glenside Ave
Glenside
215 884 5600

B
Hohenstein
361 N. Easton Rd,
Glenside
Keswick Village
215-887-1771

C
Bonnie & Ky Mettler
131 Woodland Rd
Wyncote
215 885 8936

D
Marsha Ray
106 Woodland Rd.
Wyncote
215 886 4962

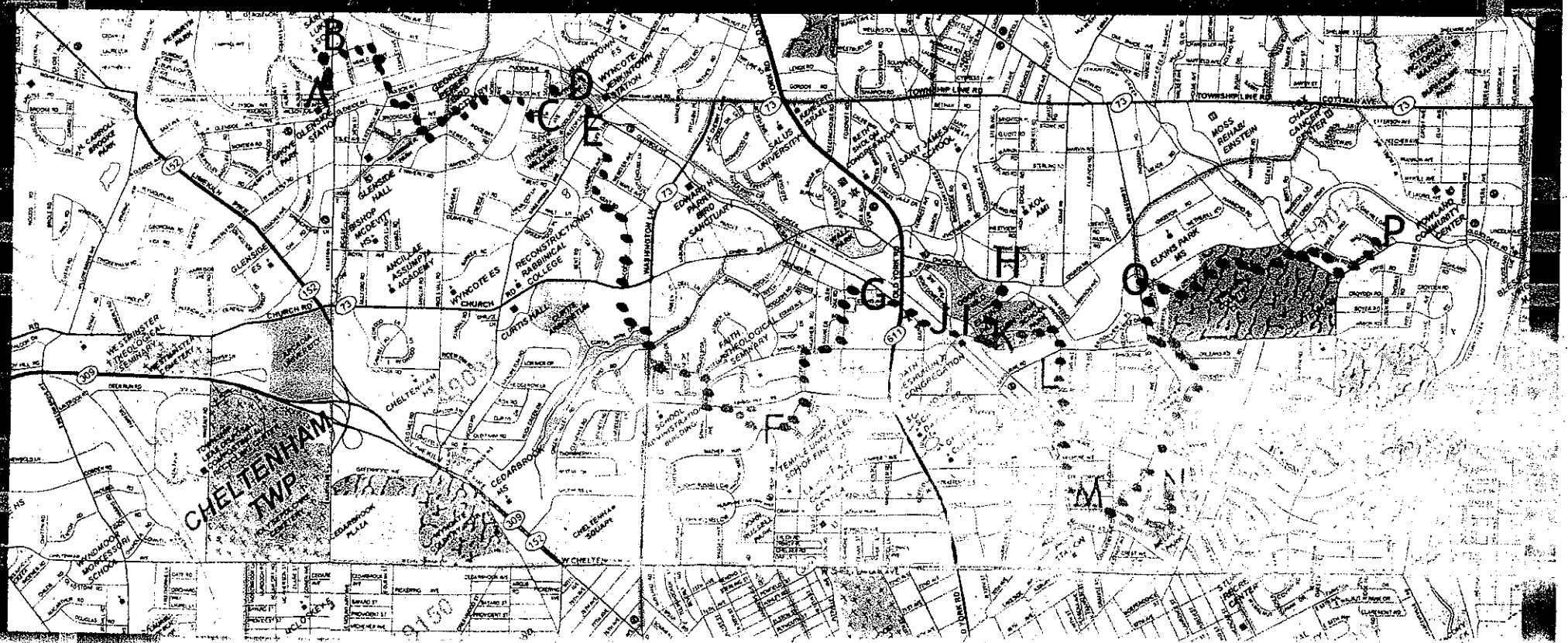
E
Linda Jeans
109 Greenwood Ave
Wyncote
215 481 9111

F
Amy Ragsdale
Elkins Estate
directly across from
7832 Penrose Ave
215 635 1714

G
Michelle Ciarlo-Hayes
606 Elkins Avenue,
Elkins Park
267-241-3347

H
Denise Shardlow
415 Church Rd
B-4, Elkins Park
215 635 4381

I
Frame House
7900 High School Rd
215-635-1140
Sunday Only



J
Jeanne Jones & Co
7901 High School Rd
Elkins Park
215 870 0995

K
Joanne Karpowitz
338 Harrison Ave
Elkins Park
215 635 6673

L
Patti Dougherty
7703 Union Ave
Elkins Park
215 873 6123

M
Joye Schwartz
7 Asbury Ave
Melrose Park
215 527 5291
Sunday Only

N
Linda Nevisky
328 High Avenue
Melrose Park
215 635 3494

O
Gary San Pietro
204 Tookany
Creek Pkwy
Elkins Park
215 782 8242

P
William Daley
Cheltenham
Center for
the Arts

Cheltenham Arts
439 Ashbourne Rd
Cheltenham
215 379 4660

We highly reccomend that you check individual Artist Pages for directions & specifics about parking www.TurtleArtTour.com

Watershed Committee Ad Hoc Meeting
Sunday, October 9, 2011

Attendance: Dave Schultz, EAC Chair, Barb Duffy, EAC Vice Chair, Tom McHugh, EAC Transportation Chair and Bonnie Hay, Resident & Watershed Educator.
Interested but could not Attend: Jonathan Essoka, Lorna Rosenberg, Miriam Moss, Dottie Baumgarten

Purpose:

- To review past township flood maps and compare them to recent resident flooding following Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee.
- To initiate discussion and overview of the flooding issues, both historically and recent, and to supply possible recommendations to the township.

Overview of Issues discussed:

- After viewing old 100 year flood maps, there is a definite increase in the number of homes that are experiencing flooding within our township.
- Some residents' concerns following the two storms stemmed from fear for safety (before, during and after the flooding), lack of perceived support and communication from the township and other officials.
- Need for a list of reliable resources for flood cleanup and specific contacts for FEMA and other appropriate public officials.
- Need for a **whole watershed approach** to look at the flooding issues and to solving some of the problems.
- Need to review and look at past housing/business development from a watershed perspective, especially development in the head waters in both Cheltenham and in Abington. (Examples discussed included: Wyngate development, Copper Beech Elementary School, Abington HS track and stadium additions, Keswick Avenue storm water project, 309 project, Glenside Elementary, Arcadia U parking lot and soccer field, etc.)
- Need for more varied stormwater BMP's and accountability for tree and shrub removal. (Example: #1-- the 309 project where more impervious surface was put in place especially more asphalt and cement islands. There were also many trees removed at the start of the 309 project without accountability and/or any plans for tree replacement. #2—Arcadia U given permission to remove many old large trees along the 309 corridor to put in a parking lot when existing parking lots could have been built up instead to accommodate more parking.)

- This committee had many concerns about the DEP plan for the Brookdale/North Avenue flood area. Channeling and increasing widths of the culvert is not the direction we would recommend and the DEP plan opposes our watershed management plan. This plan sends the problems downstream and will not only adversely affect SPS but the SEPTA's rail lines and Jenkintown/Wyncote Train Station too.
- Need to review watershed map to add springs, small tributaries and ponds that are not on the map. (May also need to review old maps of wetlands, streams and ponds that have been in-filled.) This will give a better understanding of where the water is coming from in many of the flood prone areas.
- Questioned how Cheltenham officials can be more proactive with development taking place in neighboring Jenkintown and Abington (within our watershed)?
- How can Cheltenham oversee more closely SEPTA's planning for tree removal and clear cutting along their tracks? Can we insist on replacement of trees with native shrubs and grasses especially in steep sloped areas? (Case-in-point: Mount Carmel/Limekiln Pike where clear cutting the steep slopes on both sides of the railroad track have resulted in mud slides and manmade canals leading to Shady Nook Creek which added more water volume and sediment to this creek that flows through Grove Park and meets the mainstem behind Dunkin Donuts on Easton Road.)
- There continues to be a lack of understanding by residents about the sewage problems and how flooding affects the sewage issue. Also, there is some confusion about the function of the above ground black sewage pipe. Money needs to be sought more immediately to push the repair of the sewage system.
- We cannot discount tree absorption and transpiration with the continual loss of mature large trees in our neighborhoods and parks. There is an impact of trees on flood management. The annual average transpiration from leaves of a mature oak tree is estimated to be 40,000 gallons by the US Geological Survey. Trees serve to reduce flooding not only by the amount of water they take in but also by holding significant water on the leaf surfaces. Of course the leaves also help to lessen the impact downpours and the roots reduce stream bank erosion. According to Vincent Cotrone, Penn State Extension Urban Forester, one acre of parking lot produces 40 times the runoff as 1 acre of forest. Also a good figure on runoff –in New York City trees avert 890 million gallons of water a year at an estimated value of $38.6 million. The average NYC tree intercepts 1432 gallons per year -$61 value per tree.

- Native riparian plantings are scheduled at least 1x/year, but over time they are rendered ineffective due to lack of township park maintenance. These newly planted riparian areas are not monitored each spring for removal of invasive species vines that choke the newly planted trees and shrubs.

Recommendations:

1. EAC can assist residents to continue to form Neighborhood Flood Groups and to facilitate discusses on how the township could better respond to their needs and concerns before, during and after flood events. Also these groups could provide support for each other, list resources and consistent public official contacts and improve township communication with the residents. Brainstorm safety issues for each neighborhood (before, during and after flood events) and how to address them.
2. **The Flood groups and township officials can plan together for a consistent campaign and strategies to get funding from elected county, state and federate officials for watershed friendly flood projects, sewage pipeline replacement, home & business buy-outs, open space money, water proofing and possible raising of some homes for those who do not wish to sell their home, but accept that they live in a flood zone.**
3. Develop a township &/or Flood Group website to list resources and appropriate public officials.
4. **Important: Any funded study has to involve not only township officials, DEP and the Army Corp of Engineers but flood group representatives, EAC members, TTF Watershed Partnership and Abington, Jenkintown, and Philadelphia officials (possibly PWD) to come up with storm water and flooding solutions.** Use the experts who have already studied our watershed and re-examine information in our storm water ordinance and the TTF Integrated Watershed Management Plan to help develop a comprehensive watershed approach to flooding and storm water management. **We must not accept engineered plans that alleviates flooding in one area at the cost of reducing water quality and does not include a whole watershed approach and that may create more problems downstream.**
5. Tell a story about how our flooding problems have developed over time. Have TTF go out to Flood Groups to educate about "what a watershed is" and the basics of the "Water Cycle" so people can understand why areas flood the way they do. (Use PWD's DVD and other available resources) Some residents need to accept that no matter what we do watershed wide, if they live in a flood zone and we have a major Hurricane, tropical storm or saturated conditions with a heavy rain event following, they are going to get flooded because they are in that flood zone. (Not an easy thing to accept when your home is such a major investment.)
6. Get the EAC, Economic Development Taskforce, the Army Corp of Engineers, architect and property owner together to redesign the whole Glenside Avenue/Rice's Mill Road business area to be more business and creek side friendly. Instead of culverting and channeling, look into the feasibility of daylight the creek and restore the creek bed and planting the banks. Buy-out homes on Glenside Avenue and the businesses at North

Avenue and create a native woodland area to retain water naturally. Look into the feasibility of getting investors to consider restoring the old brick building and feature it as a business friendly structure overlooking the newly day lighted creek. Build new businesses along the Rice's Mill wall connecting the Bella's building to the old brick building. On the other side of the road at the corner of Glenside and Rice's Mill Road--remove part of the parking lot and regrade the creek bank to create a nature pooling area with possible winter recreation implication such as ice skating. **Think out-of-the-box!**

7. Use the same group mentioned above, to look at other township business areas along the creek to redesign business building to co-exist with the creek and flooding.
8. Sewer and flooding issues need to be more clearly explained to residents. Outline the repairs to be made to the sewer system and put the timeline for replacement of old sewer pipes on the website. Money needs to be sought more immediately to push the repair of the sewage system, especially given the problems that have arisen due to hurricane and tropical storm conditions that are happening more frequently.
9. With the Township Engineer retiring soon, we have an opportunity to search for someone to replace him who has extensive experience in Stormwater BMPs.
10. Need for a Tree Ordinance as well as aggressive plans to continue to seek grant funding to replace large trees with large species native trees in parks and neighborhoods. Tree ordinances will prevent our loss of trees.
11. Bring in a consultant to educate our Park Maintenance Supervisor and grounds crew on identifying invasive species and appropriate removal (why, when and how). So that existing riparian areas are maintained appropriately and function as they should and do not cost us more $ in the long run to remove/spray and replant. Well maintained riparian areas actually are easier to maintain than mowed areas, since an annual spring walk through and clipping back of invasive species is less time consuming then weekly mowing. The township is saving on gas for mowers and mower repairs. **A well planted riparian area slows flood waters and, if planted with natives, will hold the stream banks in place and cost less in after-storm repairs.**