

The regular meeting of the Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) was held tonight. Voting members present were: Daryl Carrington, Barbara Duffy, Bill Mettler, David Schultz, and Dottie Baumgarten. Ex officio member, Jonathan Essoka, was present. Other interested public in attendance were: Bridgett Chadwick, Robert Hyslop and Tom McHugh. (See attached attendance sheet).

**1. Call to Order** – Chairman Schultz called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

**2. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes** – Mr. Schultz asked for a motion to approve the September 19, 2011 meeting minutes. Mr. McHugh asked for an addition to page 2, Item 3. Under *Presentation*: to note there is proposed 18,000 cubic feet of storage capacity in the stormwater water retention /underground infiltration system at Cheltenham Elementary School. Mr. McHugh also indicated that the Glenside Elementary School runoff from the site was reported by area residents to be worse since underground storage capacity increased, as well as the impervious footprint which had a downstream impact on the residents on Oak Road. Ms. Duffy made a motion to accept the minutes as amended; seconded by Ms. Baumgarten. The motion was unanimously approved.

**3. Committee Reports -**

**A. Energy Committee** – Mr. Mettler reported on a recent local event, The Turtle Artisans Tour on Saturday, October 22-23, 2011. Local artists provided open studio tours of their artwork at various locations in the Township. Bicycle advocates were invited and biked to five local studios using back roads known to the Bike Route Network. A couple of the crossings were challenging such as Church Road and Washington Lane as predicted. The Network will continue to look at the best, safest crossings to upgrade. (See attached).

Mr. Mettler linked the Bike Route Network initiatives with common goals of the energy and transportation committee by being less dependent on fossil fuels.

Mr. Mettler noted that Transition Town Cheltenham launched a structured organization last March and Mr. Mettler chose to participate in a free form Team Transition involved with Permaculture, La Mott Community Garden and Arcadia University Garden, Bike Route Network and Occupy Philadelphia. Transition Town Cheltenham contacts are Beverly Maisey and Laura Draving. (See attached report).

B. Watershed Committee – Ms. Duffy presented her written report (See attached).

- Tree Vitalize Riparian Buffer Planting at Parkview Park took place on November 5, 2011 from 9-4 p.m. with the help of 34 volunteers.
- Marcellus Shale Drilling - The Pennsylvania Environmental Council (PEC) had not as yet completed its 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. Update on the issue: on November 18, 2011, the Delaware River Basin Commission pushed back a critical vote on its regulations for hydraulic fracturing.
- Earth Day Festival - Ms. Duffy will be meeting with Karen Saffran at Cedarbrook Middle School to brainstorm for the 2012 Community Earth Day Festival scheduled for May 12, 2012 at the Cedarbrook Middle School.
- 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 reviewed by the Ad Hoc Zoning Committee.
- Tree Ordinance Model Research – Ms. Duffy added to her report that this was requested by Commissioner Simon at the Public Works Committee.
- EAC Watershed/Flooding Ad Hoc Committee. Ms. Duffy reported on the outcome of the Watershed Committee Ad Hoc Meeting on November 19, 2011 to review the November 9, 2011 PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) response to the Township's recommendations regarding stormwater mitigation measures outline in the Township Manager's letter dated November 4, 2011. Ms. Baumgarten had provided a written summary of the November 19, 2011 ad hoc meeting discussion on flood mitigation measures and will finalize recommendations based on the discussion at this EAC meeting. Amendments to the response as written by Ms. Baumgarten will then be approved via e-mail responses from EAC members. Mr. Mettler made a recommendation to allow Ms. Baumgarten to finalize the draft recommendations following this evening's meeting and attached report and submit it to Staff on or before December 8, 2011 for inclusion as an attachment to the EAC minutes. (see attached report)

Mr. Hyslop, resident, wished to add some background to the Township's original draft of possible short term flooding mitigation measures dated November 4, 2011. Mr. Hyslop commented that basin release may acerbate peak flow, holding first inch and releasing little by little better than all at once. He disputed unusable portions of parks for use of basins. Point repairs, in his opinion, are routine maintenance measures. He said coffin blocks are not a good

idea based on his attendance at recent stormwater management seminar at St. Joseph's University. Mr. Hyslop explained that what he learned at the seminar at St. Joseph's University, and after explaining the situation in Cheltenham Township, he claimed the speaker at the seminar advised the most cost effective solution is to plant trees. Invest in planting trees in our parks and implement a tree care maintenance and pruning program, which will have the greatest impact at slowing stormwater because trees have a large holding capacity for water. He also suggested performing a cost and benefit analysis for all recommendations. He encouraged the Township to dovetail planning with the Army Corp of Engineers (ACOE) plan next year. Don't hurry things through, he said.

Ms. Chadwick suggested that an inventory of impervious surfaces in the Township should be conducted. Ms. Carrington noted that the Cheltenham Sustainability Committee already has that information on GIS Data. Mr. Carrington noted that the problem in the Township is really complicated as a result of engineered solutions. With green engineering, long term sustainable systems improve with age. Need green master plan with short term and long term opportunities. Mr. Havir referred to recommendations in the 2003 Tookany Creek Watershed Management Plan and the 2006 Cheltenham Township Open Space plans which offer a number of sustainable recommendations which have not been implemented to date.

*C. Transportation Committee* – Mr. McHugh reported that Artisans Turtle Tour was a great idea and he hoped to have a similar tour in the Spring to increase awareness of traveling from one point to another by bike in the Township.

*D. Buildings Committee* – Ms. Rosenberg was not present to offer her report.

*E. Communications Committee* – Mr. Schultz announced that Ms. Baumgarten had submitted a resume and biographical background to the Township. Mr. Havir confirmed that Ms.

Baumgarten was appointed as a voting member to the EAC by the Board of Commissioners at its November 16, 2011 meeting. Ms. Baumgarten offered to serve on the EAC in the capacity of Communications Committee Chair. Discussion ensued regarding the process for submitting announcements to the Township Public Information Officer for posting on the Township website. Orientation and training with the Public Information Officer was discussed. Additionally, Ms. Carroll has offered to provide technical assistance.

**4. *Old Business:***

A. Website Development – Ms. Schultz tabled this discussion to the December meeting.

B. EAC Vision Statement – The EAC reviewed the current draft of the EAC Vision statement. Mr. Mettler made a motion to adopt the current version of the vision statement; seconded by Mr. Carrington and unanimously approved. (See attached).

C. Sustainability Plan Development – Mr. McHugh stated the Visioning Session II was a good meeting; productive with some give and take. Mr. Mettler enjoyed the inclusive SWOT analysis; great insights. The items recorded by the groups will be presented to the Steering Committee. The next steering committee meeting is scheduled for December 13, 2011 at 8:00 a.m. at the Township Administration Building.

**5. *New Business*** – Upon a question asked by Ms. Duffy concerning the Integrated Act 167 Stormwater Management Plan for the entire Tookany-Tacony/ Frankford (TTF) Watershed, Mr. Havir said that the Philadelphia Water Department (PWD) wrote the initial grant application to PA DEP about seven years ago and subsequently hired Borton-Lawson Engineering, Inc. as the consultant to write the plan. The final report and plan dated March 27, 2008 is on the PWD website with a link to the plan found on the Township's website as well as for those interested in reviewing it. The plan and stormwater management ordinance was adopted by all municipalities in the TTF Watershed in May 2010.

**6. Other Business** – Mr. McHugh asked Mr. Havir for an update on the recent meeting between Cheltenham and Abington Township officials and Standard Press Steel representatives. Mr. Havir stated that Mr. Kraynik and Mr. Lynch attended the meeting but he was not aware of the status at this time. Mr. McHugh suggested that an EAC liaison be involved in the meetings regarding short term flood mitigation with Abington and Jenkintown and Cheltenham. Mr. McHugh also raised questions on flooding issues along Keswick Avenue that he believed were the result of County and/or Township Capital Improvement Projects.

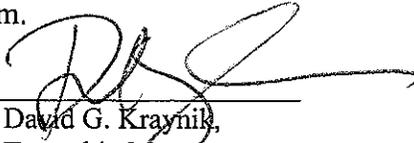
**7. Announcements** – The Tree City Recertification Growth Award to be filed on December 31, 2011 for annual tree planting and tree maintenance.

Department of Environmental Protection Education grant (\$7,500) – A pre-application was filed two weeks ago. The plan is to adopt and update public education outreach documents prepared by Lisa Wool of the Delaware Estuary many years ago. The grant will be used to create 5,000 copies; 3,000 for Cheltenham Township and 2,000 for the Delaware Estuary. In addition, hire Dottie Baumgarten for modeling, data collection, and providing outreach to businesses on business best management practices. Feedback from the reviewers on the pre-application submission was to include more information on post evaluation to document if changes in behavior take place. This information must be included in a seven page narrative to be filed on December 16, 2011. Curriculum Development, TTF Plan Presentations and training for homeowners on enhancing backyard buffers was discussed. It was noted that Amy Steffen from Friends of High School Park was spearheading an outreach program on rain gardens in the region which could be advertised on the Township website.

The next EAC meeting will be held at the Carriage House at Richard Wall Park on December 19, 2011.

November 21, 2011 7:30 p.m.  
Township Administration Building

8. *Adjournment* – Mr. Carrington made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Ms. Baumgarten. The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.



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David G. Kraynik,  
Township Manager

Submitted by:  
Kathryn McDevitt



**McDevitt, Kathryn**

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**From:** wmmettler3@aol.com  
**Sent:** Sunday, November 20, 2011 11:17 PM  
**To:** McDevitt, Kathryn  
**Cc:** Rosenberg.Lorna@epamail.epa.gov; david.mcveigh.schultz@gmail.org; jessoka@verizon.net; dottiebaumgarten@gmail.com; beduffy@comcast.net; mossm@arcadia.edu; tombale@comcast.net; tom.mchugh@monitordata.com; judithgratz@gmail.com  
**Subject:** EAC--an Energy/Transportation Report: Turtles, Art & Bikes  
 11/20/11

Dear Kathy and EACrew:

**Turtles:**

Cheltenham's first Turtle Artisans Tour was launched on Saturday & Sunday October 22 & 23 by Denise Shardlow and Amy Ragsdale!

The tour is named in honor of the Lenape Turtle Clan--the first artisans of this area.

**Art:**

A serpentine course of 17 stops across the township featuring 14 artists' open studios, 2 bodegos: Elcy's Cafe and Linda Jean's Grill and the Cheltenham Arts Center.

Our township artists exhibited their works in: jewelry, glass, beadwork, watercolor, sculpture, fashion & fibers, photography, pottery, printmaking--they say, "you'll never have to go to the mall again--there is home/studio-made everything in Cheltenham!

We were impressed with the technicianship in both the fine and applied arts in our township!

**Bikes!**

Nine intrepid bikesters met at Elcy's to do the Turtle Artisans Tour: Kathy Hampton, Meenal Raval, Michaelann Velicky, Jerome Cohen, Tom & Olga McHugh, Bill Mettler, Chris & Eileen Blazic. Meenal brought a spare electric bike for Kathy from Philly Electric Wheels--her bike shop. Our mission was to test out some of the Citizens' Bike Routes of the Network made of "shared roads" lightly traveled through the neighborhoods of the township.

We followed our maps from Elcy's at the Glenside train station to Hohenstein's pottery on Easton in Keswick Village then around to Mt. Carmel just down from Ralph Sianni's barber shop to Gregg Moore's Heirloom Home & Studio: antiques, pottery, and heirloom seeds. The nine of us then rode over Keswick to Paxson to Stanley to Brookdale quick jog onto Rices Mill then onto Hewett then Glenview and onto the secret path (through my back yard) that connects to Woodland Rd. There Bonnie and Ky had their watercolors and sculpture and down the street was Marsha Ray's bead jewelry.

A couple of us continued overland through Curtis Arboretum across Washington Lane to Dixon, on to Spring then Ashbourne and Penrose to visit Amy Ragsdale's jewelry studio on The Elkins Estate. The final adventure was back to Spring then to Park under the Railroad tracks onto High School Road up to Church to visit Denise Shardlow's fashion and fibre studio--cloth from bamboo!

The Bike Routes worked well with the exception of brief stints on Ashbourne, Washington Ln. and Church that were too heavily travelled or too narrow for that relaxed bike ride feeling.

The next step will be to study the crossings of the above-mentioned thoroughfares to determine the safest passages from one neighborhood to the next.

Respectfully Submitted,  
 Bill Mettler

## Watershed Committee Report: EAC Meeting November 21, 2011

EAC **Watershed/flooding Ad Hoc Committee** met twice since our last 10/9 meeting.

On Sunday October 30<sup>th</sup>, we continued the discuss of the flooding issues as requested at the September EAC meeting. At this meeting, we were unaware that the township staff was putting together a Short Term Flood Mitigation Measures document. Then several EAC members attended the Public Works meeting on November 9th where the Short Term Flood Mitigation Measures document was presented and Township Manager, David Kraynik, reported to the BOC that he would like the EAC to comment on the list of Flood Mitigation Measures. Therefore, on Saturday, November 19th the EAC Watershed Ad Hoc Committee met again at La Mott CC to review the list and other pertinent documents, such as the Tookany Creek Watershed Management Plan, the TTF Integrated Watershed Plan and the Stormwater 167 Plan. A report for the township staff and BOC will be forthcoming.

### **Fall TreeVitalize Planting at Parkview Park was Saturday, November 5th from 9 am to 3 pm—**

We had 34 volunteers and put in 144 volunteer hours. (Report submitted to Bryan Havir and Nancy Gibson) Thank you to Public Works for sending two workers to help put up deer fence posts and Shades of Green for augering holes prior to the planting to make the day go faster and less laborious.

\* **Marcella Shale Drilling**—still no word from PEC regarding their draft of a sample referendum for municipalities regarding the Marcella Shale environmental issues.

Update on the issue: On November 21st the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) was supposed to vote on a plan that would allow for 20,000 or more hydraulically drilled gas wells in the Delaware River Basin; however, on Friday, November 18<sup>th</sup>, the Delaware River Basin Commission announced it will push back this critical vote on its regulations for hydraulic fracturing. New York Attorney General, Eric Schneiderman had filed a federal lawsuit earlier this year arguing the commission could not allow drilling without conducting a comprehensive environmental impact review.

U.S. Rep. Maurice Hinchey wrote a letter to the DRBC's commissioners last week asking them to postpone their vote. He is also pushing for a comprehensive environmental review before regulations come to a vote.

\***Planning for the 2012 Cheltenham Community Earth Day Festival will begin soon-** delayed to some conflicts in schedules.

\***Riparian Corridor Conservation District Ordinance Draft** went to the Ad Hoc Zoning committee on September 26<sup>th</sup> and was reviewed and approved with minor changes. Not sure where it is right now.

\* **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 flooding issues.

\* Request by Commissioner Simon to understand what a "Tree Ordinance" would look like—research on sample "Tree Ordinances" is being worked on.

Submitted by Barbara Duffy

**Cheltenham Environmental Advisory Council's (EAC) Watershed Ad-Hoc Committee's** response to Cheltenham Township's "Possible Short Term Flooding Mitigation Measures" (November 2, 2011) and recommendations regarding the flooding issues in Cheltenham Township.

Adopted by the EAC on November 21, 2011

**We thank Mr. Kraynik and the Board of Commissioners for the opportunity to respond to the Flood Mitigation Measures and to make EAC recommendations.**

**I. Cheltenham EAC's response to Flood Mitigation Measures:**

The EAC supports the Department of Environmental Protection letter of November 9, 2011 from David Burke, and the Tookany/Tacony-Frankford Watershed Partnership Inc. letter of November 17, 2011 from Julie Slavet.

In summary, according to the above-mentioned DEP letter, the majority of the listed flood mitigation measures either won't work to reduce flooding, or there is not enough detailed information to evaluate the effectiveness of the measures.

Also, according to the above-mentioned TTF letter, many of the measures run counter to TTF Integrated Watershed Management Plan, the Act 167 Watershed Management Plan, and the River Conservation Plan (Tookany Creek Watershed Management Plan).

The EAC recognizes that flooding is a major concern, and the Cheltenham Township's "Possible Short Term Flooding Mitigation Measures" is a rapid response to the flooding issue, however the response bypasses Township adopted stormwater and watershed plans.

After reviewing the proposed mitigation measures, we are only in agreement with a part of B-3: **buy out the business properties at Paxson Ave. and North Ave. (old Mack Electric buildings)**. We adamantly disagree with the use of coffin block and strongly believe that outdated retaining detention basins which include hard structured channeling and fencing oppose all recommended best management practices for stormwater (BMP) mentioned in our adopted watershed and stormwater plans.

**II. The EAC recommendations regarding the flooding issues in Cheltenham Township:**

1. Flooding in Cheltenham Township is a major reoccurring issue and therefore, requires a watershed strategy to implement effective measures of stormwater management. Accordingly, we highly recommend hiring a Township Civil Engineer who recognizes the criticality of a watershed approach to stormwater management, understands the importance of ecological systems, is supportive of green infrastructure strategies to landscape architectural and engineering challenges, and has first hand experience implementing best management practices for stormwater management in either the public or private sector . He or she must be collaborative in their approach to effectuate the public and private partnerships, which will be required.

2. The EAC recommends addressing flooding issues based on TTF Integrated Watershed Management Plan (2005), the Act 167 Stormwater Management Plan (2008), and The Tookany Creek Watershed Management Plan, (2003) which include detailed suggestions on effective stormwater/watershed management projects. Noted in these plans, is the preference for infiltration and elimination of nonporous surfaces at the source, or close to the source, of the stormwater runoff over traditional water detention measures whenever possible.

3. We highly recommend that the Philadelphia Water Department Stream Restoration Team, and the other watershed experts who worked on the TTF Act 167 plan, be requested to prepare a presentation jointly to Cheltenham, Abington, and Jenkintown officials and the public focusing on specific stormwater best management practices and projects that were included in ACT 167 plan. The EAC will assist in facilitating this meeting and participate in the organization of the presentation.

4. We recommend that the Army Corps of Engineer proposed study include TTF Partnership, EAC watershed committee members and experts in green infrastructure such as Philadelphia Water Department. We further recommend that the Army Corps of Engineer refer to The Tookany-Tacony/Frankford Act 167 Plan (2008) as well as the other watershed management plans.

**Please note:** The Philadelphia Water Department's Green City, Clean Waters plan is a DEP and EPA recognized 25 year plan to protect and enhance our watersheds by managing stormwater with innovative green infrastructure. Since Cheltenham is in the headwaters of the TTF watershed, PWD has a vested interest in assisting us with current and proven best stormwater management practices and therefore should be involved in this study.

5. We recommend including TTF Watershed Partnership, Abington, Rockledge, and Jenkintown when addressing stormwater issues. These issues are regional issues - stormwater in Abington and Jenkintown especially impact the flooding in Cheltenham.

6. We recommend the Township and Board of Commissioners encourage the School District to implement exemplary stormwater best management practices when constructing or renovating any school properties which must include bio-infiltration and increased pervious surfaces. We offer to help to look for joint funding with the School District.

7. We recommend the Township revisit its Open Space Plan that addresses the purchase of possible properties throughout the Township, and some within our floodplains. These could be restored to wetlands or assessed for rain garden or other BMP measures, which could provide natural water infiltration and be retaining areas. The Open Space Plan also recommends adopting a tree ordinance, an increase by 15 to 20% in our township tree coverage, and passing a riparian buffer ordinance (The riparian buffer ordinance has been completed and will be presented to the Commissioners in the near future).

8. The EAC's Watershed Ad Hoc Committee offers to closely reexamine the TTF Integrated Watershed Management Plan (2005), the Act 167 Stormwater Management Plan (2008), The Tookany Creek Watershed Management Plan, (2003) and the Open Space Plan in order to identify site-specific projects for recommendation (Several of our members have already started to work on this task). We are committed to working hand-in-hand with the Township to assure that stormwater issues are addressed to protect resident homeowners, to improve water quality and to maintain the natural assets and beauty of our Tookany Creek and its tributaries.

9. We recommend strong and continuous political advocacy by our Township officials and residents for county, state, and federal funding to help buy out properties within the floodplain that have extensive and repeated damage.

## **Environmental Advisory Council – 11-21-11**

### **Vision Statement**

The Cheltenham Environmental Advisory Committee aspires to assist the township Commissioners & citizens in stimulating a naturally and socially vibrant community. *The EAC: encourages our inter-connection with the natural world, promotes ecosystem health, and advocates for policies and values that meet the needs of both present and future generations.*

*The EAC champions innovation and new opportunities to help Cheltenham to evolve into a community where:*

- Energy demands are met by *conservation and* clean renewable sources (solar, wind, and geothermal)
- Waterways are biologically thriving and structurally sound
- Mobility is maximized by a clean, diverse transport system (rail, buses, walking, biking, electric car sharing)
- Goods and services, as much as possible, are produced locally by way of reuse/recycle infrastructure and processes
- Neighborhoods, public green spaces and businesses are inviting, inclusive and beautiful