

The regular meeting of the Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) was held tonight. Voting members present were: Barbara Duffy, Deb Forman, Miriam Moss, Lorna Rosenberg, and Dottie Baumgarten. Ex officio member, Jonathan Essoka, was present. Other interested public in attendance were: Bonnie Hay, Hannah Mazzaccaro 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. Duffy made a motion to accept the minutes as submitted; seconded by Ms. Moss. The motion was unanimously approved.
3. *Committee Reports* -
  - A. *Energy Committee* – No report at this time.
  - B. *Watershed Committee* – Ms. Duffy presented her written report (See attached).
    - Watershed/Flooding Ad Hoc Committee - Ms. Duffy reported that the committee met at the Glenside Free Library on January 22, 2012 with the purpose of working on stormwater management recommendations to the Township Commissioners based on 4 plans (TTF Integrated Watershed Management Plan (2005), TTF Act 167 Plan (2008) Tookany Creek Watershed Management Plan (2003) and the Open Space Plan (2006). The intent is to document the site-specific recommendations identified in the plans with respect to flooding– see attached notes.
    - Earth Day Festival - Ms. Duffy will meet 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. The focus will be on energy conservation based on their curriculum and award of PECO

Green Region grant. Ms. Duffy will work with Tookany-Tacony Watershed Partnership (TTFWP) on stormwater best management practices presentation. Ms. Duffy will also reach out to volunteers with connections for energy demonstration projects.

- Riparian Corridor Conservation Draft Ordinance has been amended by the County Planner and will be scheduled for review by Township Staff.
- The Native Plant ordinance draft is completed and needs to move on to the level of review before the Ad Hoc Zoning Committee.
- Tree Ordinance Model Research –Ms. Duffy reported that Ms. Mazzaccaro will share with the EAC model tree ordinances prepared by the County Planning Commission. Ms. Mazzaccaro stated that Abington Township has a tree ordinance for public and private property, maintenance and replacement.

C. Transportation Committee – Mr. McHugh presented his written report (See attached).

~~He inquired about pedestrian crosswalks and signage at Rices Mill Road and Glenside Avenue.~~

Mr. Havir responded that a grant application has been submitted to PennDOT for the pedestrian improvements at that location. Mr. McHugh inquired if there has been any progress for pedestrian improvements at Church and Greenwood Avenues and Mr. Havir responded that he was not aware of any action beyond the project being identified in the 10 year Transportation Initiative Program (TIP) but no funding being approved.

Mr. McHugh commented on the Township Sustainability Plan Goals in which three out of ten mention transportation; an energy reduction goal, safe mobility and healthy living for all. Action steps listed.

Mr. McHugh asked the EAC members to consider commenting on-line to Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) regarding the elimination of the Regional Citizens Committee (RCC). The DVRPC is responsible for transportation and regional planning in the greater Philadelphia area. A new citizens group will be established this year, with some members being appointed by the member counties and others being selected by the DVRPC Staff. Newly appointed members will receive training. The RCC had been composed of citizens who after attending four consecutive monthly meetings could vote and join sub-committees. This move has been contested and Mr. McHugh believes that this affects Cheltenham Township's roads, bridges, trains, etc. as all projects listed on the (TIP's) are funded through the DVRPC.

Ms. Mazzaccaro noted that the Montgomery County Planning Commission (MCPC) has input on the region's TIP's. MCPC puts lists of transportation projects together for the DVRPC. If Cheltenham Township is looking for Transportation opportunities, the time is now to share with the County Commissioners and EAC members can e-mail their recommendations to the County Commissioners. It was also noted that the Pennsylvania Environmental Council will be requesting a meeting with the County Commissioners to advocate on behalf of Cheltenham Township for funding for a bikability and walkability audit and plan since DVRPC did not fund the concept for this project last fall.

*D. Buildings Committee* – Ms. Rosenberg presented her written report. (See attached).

Ms. Rosenberg updated the committee on The Department of Education, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the White House Council on Environmental Quality concept of the U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools. The School District has agreed to encourage six schools to apply for the award for energy conservation, environmental education and health

education projects. Applications are due on February 17, 2012. Ms. Rosenberg is planning an in-service program to gather data. Ms. Rosenberg will be the EPA Coordinator for the Green Ribbon Schools initiative.

Ms. Rosenberg had previously noted that Cheltenham High School students had been working on a power point presentation on green roofs. Mr. Wolfe, Environmental AP teacher, will continue to work on the power point presentation with the students. Ms. Rosenberg would like to encourage the School District to include plans for a green roof in the plans and specifications for the Wyncote School project. This is important because of stormwater. Ms. Rosenberg will research the discussion regarding a green roof that had been planned for the Cheltenham Elementary School Annex.

*E. Communications Committee* – Ms. Baumgarten presented a written report (See attached). Ms. Baumgarten has been in contact with Ms. Gibson regarding EAC page website design. Ms. Baumgarten is ready to work on and reinstitute Constant Contact. She asked who generates the messages or what mechanism was previously used. The members asked Ms. Baumgarten to draft something on Constant Contact.

#### **4. Old Business:**

*A. Website Development* – Ms. Forman also provided a written report (See attached) on the EAC Web Page Update and reviewed a proposed outline.

*B. Sustainability Plan Development* – Ms. Rosenberg noted that the General Committee met on January 19, 2012 at Curtis Hall. A broad set of draft goals for the sustainability plan were reviewed for consensus. Comments will be incorporated into the draft goals. The next step for the upcoming general committee is to work on objectives for achieving goals. Structure (committee or

(committee or non-profit) of the organization that will most likely be created to implement or oversee the plan was discussed.

Ms. Mazzaccaro discussed plans for the Community Open House scheduled for March 15, 2012 at Curtis Hall from 6-9 p.m. The sustainable plan goals will be reviewed at the next Public Works Meeting on February 8, 2012.

*C. Update on Watershed Ad Hoc Committee Report and Inspection of flood-prone areas with TTF Partnership* - The EAC reviewed the information presented by Amy Steffen and Julie Slavet regarding the recent tour of Cheltenham Township flooding sites conducted on January 12, 2012. (See Attached). Mr. Havir stated that the idea for the tour came up at the quarterly meeting of the TTFWP where Ms. Steffen suggested contacting the Township Manager about going out to visit flood sites. Ms. Rosenberg thought the tour and discussion was fabulous. She added that to do watershed analysis you need to look at headwaters in Abington and look at Jenkintown as well. Concern was expressed that some temporary measures being considered could cause other ~~problems downstream and further study was warranted before implementation.~~ It was also requested that EAC members be involved with scheduling future flood tour meetings.

Buyouts were discussed relative to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Army Corp of Engineers (ACOE) programs. Ms. Forman stated that this is a short term solution only and there needs to be some response to the actual flooding situation long term.

Ms. Forman suggested that another tour be scheduled next month to continue the conversation because not all flood sites were visited. The discussion on coffin blocks in the Shoemaker area was not all included in the meeting notes. She noted that viable engineering colored with empirical knowledge, are pieces that are both valuable. Ms. Forman stated that residents' detention basin ideas were misinterpreted as noted on the short term flood mitigation

measures. She felt that retention basins – natural bio retention ideas should not be removed from the table.

Ms. Duffy responded that this is discussed in the plans. Ms. Baumgarten noted these are mentioned as long term recommendations from the four plans.

Ms. Mazzaccaro noted that the next tour should focus on long term solutions.

Mr. Havir noted that the minutes from the recent flood area tour were sent to the Township Manager. He noted the Township Staff is working on compiling a report (Short Term and Long Term Flood Mitigation Measures) which will include input from (DEP, TTF, EAC). The Township Manager's intent is to have a presentation on a consolidated report at the February 8, 2012 Public Works Committee meeting. Discussion ensued about Chaka Fattah being invited to attend the Public Works Committee. Ms. Forman offered to inform Chaka Fattah's staff about the next Public Works Committee Meeting. But no matter what, send e-mails to floodside.com and post a note.

~~Ms. Moss once again mentioned the December 15, 2011 Times Chronicle article about~~  
Abington Township having plans for 34 storm water projects (big 60" pipes). Not all are in the Tookany-Tacony Watershed. She questioned if Cheltenham's Engineer should contact the Abington Township Engineer to get list of the projects. Ms. Baumgarten made a motion to recommend that the Cheltenham Township Engineer contact the Abington Township Engineer regarding the stormwater project locations; seconded by Ms. Rosenberg and unanimously approved. Mr. McHugh mentioned reading in one the four plans suggestions to revert Baeder Run back to a more natural creek to better control flooding.

*D. America in Bloom Evaluation Report* – Mr. Essoka presented a brief description of the summary of the judges' evaluation report to see if there would be any priority items under the eight categories listed that would recommend prioritizing for implementation in early 2012. (See

attached report). Mr. Essoka suggested that the EAC should review the summary and choose improvements to be made. Ms. Forman made a recommendation to hold off until 2013 to apply to AIB for program competition; however, she recommended we identify one item in each of the eight categories for the volunteers to implement in 2012; seconded by Ms. Rosenberg and unanimously approved.

**5. New Business –**

*A. Overview of FY 2012 Capital Budget Projects for Conservation and Energy Efficiency –*

Mr. Havir noted fuel efficient hybrid vehicles were budgeted for the Township Manager and Township Engineer; new lighting for the skateboard parking lot; energy efficient air conditioning for some of the Township Administration Building first floor areas and LED light bulb upgrades to traffic signals lights. Additional environmental-related projects identified in the Capital Projects:

- EAC Educational Program - DEP for 1) Education or Tree Planting Phase II (PHS done with reviews)
- Curtis Landscape Management
- Transportation – Church Road Pedestrian Crossing at Wall Park Spur – crosswalks & warning signs
- Transportation – Pedestrian Signal Upgrade Glenside & Rices Mill Road
- Entryway Planting Enhancements at various Township Parks
- Flood Protection Study by ACOE

Ms. Rosenberg also suggested that there should be plans for installing low flow toilets in some of the Township Buildings.

*B. FY 2012 DCNR C2P2 Grant Announcement - Applications due April 4, 2012. Mr.*

Havir reviewed the grant program and suggested the EAC consider recommending filing a grant proposal for High School Park Meadow Edge Restoration Phase II to address the edge community. Discussion on berms, culverts, drainage outfalls and paved areas such as the ADA driveway with interlocking blocks designed by Stuart Appel ensued. Ms. Forman made a recommendation for filing a grant application for a Phase II Meadow Restoration; seconded by

Ms. Baumgarten. The majority of members voted in favor of the motion with one vote in opposition by Ms. Duffy. Ms. Duffy said she would feel more comfortable if the grant was applied for Rock Lane. Ms. Forman suggested the Rock Lane area could be considered for a Master Plan Study when the Curtis Arboretum Master Study is completed.

*C. Review of Impervious Coverage Map for Cheltenham Township.* Discussion ensued regarding the tree canopy and impervious coverage map provided by Ms. Mazzaccaro. Ms. Forman indicated that the map only shows Cheltenham parcel data and suggested that Jenkintown and Abington lands within the TTF Watershed be shown on map. Mr. Havar noted that data compiled in 2008 from the Philadelphia Water Department's consultant Borton Lawson Engineers could be used to update the map. It was suggested that Ms. Forman contact Joanne Dahme from PWD and obtaining the latest GIS information. The Committee will continue to review documents.

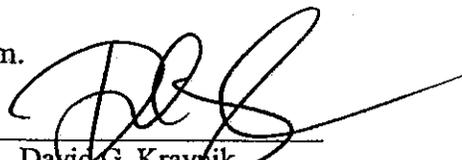
**6. Other Business** – The Mural Arts Project at the SEPTA Overpass located at Mt. Carmel and Keswick Avenues has been funded by a grant from the Greater Philadelphia Cultural Alliance.

Mr. Havar stated that the project will be a collaborative project with Cheltenham and Abington EAC's and the visioning process and offered a tentative schedule for the community meetings as follows: February 22 (input and design), March 27 (collaboration) and April 23, 2012 (final recommendations). The meetings would be held at Glenside Hall. The muralist has already agreed to these dates. Once a final design is selected, it will be presented to the Board of Commissioners for approval. The intent is to hold a series of public painting days in June. Mr. Havar noted that when communicating with SEPTA, that the repair work to the underpass may occur in 2013. Therefore, a moveable surface should be discussed for the mural.

**7. Announcements**

- Mr. Havar announced that a \$5,000 grant application is due on February 1, 2012 for the National Trust Historic Preservation (NTHP) which could be used as part of matching funds in conjunction with the Curtis Arboretum landscape management plan. Ms. Forman requested that the Master Plan include a recommendation to create a retention area. Ms. Duffy made a motion to recommend the filing of a grant application with National Trust Historic Preservation for \$5,000 as matching funds for the Curtis Arboretum Landscape Management Master Plan.
- A National Endowment for the Arts grant application will be discussed at the next TTF meeting to use it for a bio retention basin at Curtis Arboretum with focal art.
- Ms. Baumgarten announced a workshop on Rainwater Catchment scheduled for February 18, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. at the Primex Garden Center.
- Ms. Rosenberg announced the 2012 Environmental Council Conference is scheduled for March 3, 2012 at the Montgomery County Community College, Pottstown Campus. Registration fee is \$35.00.

**8. Adjournment** – Ms. Duffy made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Ms. Rosenberg. The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
David G. Kraynik  
Township Manager

Submitted by:  
Kathryn McDevitt



## Watershed Committee Report: EAC Meeting January 23, 2012

\* **Watershed/flooding Ad Hoc Committee** met on Sunday, January 22 at the Glenside Library. Dottie Baumgarten prepared the minutes from that meeting and they will be presented. Please note--Our "Response to the Township Flood Mitigations Measures and our Recommendations" document was attached to the November EAC minutes and was supposed to be reviewed and discussed at the December Public Works Committee meeting; however, due to a packed agenda, it was tabled until January. The January Public Works meeting was cancelled so the review will possibly happen at the February Public Works meeting.

\* **TTFWP**, spearheaded by Amy Steffen, scheduled a **Tour of some of the township flood sites on January 12, 2012**. They invited some PWD and PEC staff as well as Township officials. Lorna Rosenberg was able to attend for a short time to represent the EAC. Bryan Havir has provided a summary of the tour and topics discussed.

\* Hannah Mazzaccaro, Community Planner with Montgomery County Planning Commission and Glenside resident, has put together a **township map combining the 100 year flood zone, tree canopy, and development (impervious surfaces)**. She has printed a huge copy for us to use at our EAC Watershed Committee and EAC Board meetings. **Thank you Hannah!**

\* **2012 Cheltenham Community Earth Day Festival** – Cedarbrook MS wants to do an "Energy" focus because of their curriculum and because they received a PECO grant. \$1,500 for an energy project that they are still working out how to spend. Some \$ will go to the Earth Day Festival. PECO has given them energy conservation kits. TTF has not gotten involved in the Earth Day planning yet but will be brought into the planning to have a Stormwater BMP focus. Next planning meeting will be in February with date TBA. **WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!**

\* **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.

\* Research on sample "Tree Ordinances" is still being worked on.

Submitted by Barbara Duffy

TTFWP- looking for someone to help March 8<sup>th</sup> with storm drain marking with Arcadia students.



EAC Watershed Ad Hoc Meeting.  
January 22, 2012, 2 pm, Glenside Library

Present: Barb Duffy, David McVeigh Shultz, Judith Gratz, Jonathan Essoka, Dottie Baumgarten, Deb Forman, Tom McHugh (3 pm)

We affirmed that communication is key, and aspire to be open and inviting with all our meetings, as well as hope to be informed of other meetings across the Township.

Purpose of this meeting is to work on stormwater management recommendations to the Township Commissioners based on the 4 plans. The intent is to find and pull out site-specific recommendations in relations to flooding.

TTF Integrated Watershed Management Plan (2005),  
TTF Act 167 Plan (2008) (updated every 5 years).  
Tookany Creek Watershed Management Plan (2003)  
Open Space Plan

- Barb is working on the 2003 plan, and is writing a summary of "Planning Implications" and goals that were sited in the TCWMP.
- Jonathan is working on reviewing the 2008 ACT 167 Plan and notes that the plan applies to new development.
- Dave has reviewed the Open Space Plan
- The TTF plan (2005) needs someone to read through it and find the recommendations. Perhaps the TTF staff.
- Dottie will collate the written work from the different plans.
- In addition, Deb is looking at the MS4 regulations.

Discussion: tree ordinances. Barb intends to ask Hannah Mazzaccaro for model tree ordinances.

Discussion: tree canopy: While looking at the tree canopy map that Hannah Mazzaccaro provided, tree canopy loss was noted (anecdotally) by Rock Lane Creek, Railroad line, Abington where they cleared canopy, Cedar Brook Middle School, Cedarbrook Mall, upper reaches of the main branch, Glenside Elementary, and the cemetery.

Discussion included:

Finding language that is recommended in all of the three plans;

All the plans recommend nonstructural stormwater best management practices. There is need for increased on site infiltration of water. The intent of these plans is that Township policy is based on these adopted plans.

Noting where the flooding occurs as lakes behind bridges

Noting that the sewer-shed impacts the watershed: noting where the sewer lines from adjacent municipalities increase the possibility of sewer overflows.

Noting that at a green roof conference, ground vegetation (low lying succulents) is recommended on railroad property.

Discussion of TMDL (total maximum daily load) for smaller tributaries to the mainstem of the Tookany

Minutes by Dottie Baumgarten

Cheltenham Township EAC  
January 23, 2012

Transportation Committee Report

- 1) No pedestrian crossing signage at key intersection of Rices Mill & Glenside Avenue and at the intersection of Church Road & Greenwood Avenue continues to be a problem. PA DOT should be approached for a solution.
- 2) Cheltenham Township Sustainability Plan Draft Goals list ten major goals:
  - a. Energy – “reduce emissions”
  - b. Mobility –
    - i. Reduce VMT
    - ii. Increase use of alternative modes of transportation
    - iii. Make walking and biking convenient and safe throughout Twp. and region
  - c. Healthy Living for All – “car-free transportation”
  - d. Action Steps are proposed under all three topics
- 3) DVRPC Board voting on January 26, 2012 to eliminate the Regional Citizens Committee (RCC)
  - a. RCC was one avenue for Cheltenham Twp. residents to comment on or question TIP and STIP actions funded through DVRPC
  - b. FTA and FHWA officials have formally questioned the DVRPC on the appropriateness of elimination of the RCC
  - c. Citizens can make on-line comments to the DVRPC Board and/or make a two minute comment to the Board in person

**McDevitt, Kathryn****From:** Lorna Rosenberg [Rosenberg.Lorna@epamail.epa.gov]**Sent:** Monday, January 23, 2012 12:45 PM**To:** McDevitt, Kathryn

**Cc:** Amy Steffan; Jeffrey Bacal; Barbara Duffy; Bonnie Hay; Bob Hamburg; Havar, Bryan; Bernie Penzak; Chris Beetham; Bridget Chadwick; Daryl Carrington; Dave Schultz; Debra Forman; Deborah Fries; Bob De Maria; Diana K. Weiner; Dottie Baumgarten; Donna Suevo; Ed Lichstein; Emma Raymont, P.E. ; Eva Monheim; Jim Innes; Jonathan Essoka; Jim Gorman; J. Noorman; Janet Starwood; Julie Slavet; Justin S. Moriconi, Esq.; Kathleen Foti; Khiet Luong; Mary E. Myers; Martha Mowry; Mary Beth Carroll; Martin Carey; Myron Goldman; Mirian Moss; Paul Gordon; Robert Panebianco; Sandra Cohen; Susan Dannenberg; Thomas Johnston; Tom Bale; Tom McHugh; Judith Gratz; William Mettler

**Subject:** Re: EAC 1-23-12 Meeting Agenda and December 19, 2011 Meeting Minutes

Buildings Report for January 2012 -

January 2012 Report - EAC Buildings Committee – Lorna Rosenberg

- School District of Cheltenham – agrees to have 6 schools apply for Green Ribbon Schools from the State Dept of Education
- Myers achieves LEED Gold – Event planned for April Earth Day (is this the first LEED project in the Township?)
- Effort continues on a green roof for a Cheltenham School

Lorna Rosenberg, LEED-Green Associate  
Green and Healthy Schools Coordinator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1650 Arch Street - 3EA40  
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Wk: 215-814-5389

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From: "McDevitt, Kathryn" &lt;kmcdevitt@cheltenham-township.org&gt;

To: "Amy Steffan" <amysteffen@verizon.net>, "Barbara Duffy" <beduffy@comcast.net>, "Bernie Penzak" <bpanzak@glackinplan.com>, "Bob De Maria" <demari4@verizon.net>, "Bob Hamburg" <bhanomalous7@gmail.com>, "Bonnie Hay" <belh@verizon.net>, "Bridget Chadwick" <chadwick@voicenet.com>, "Chris Beetham" <cbeetham@verizon.net>, "Daryl Carrington" <daryl@jcdavisarchitects.com>, "Dave Schultz" <david.mcveigh.schultz@gmail.com>, "Deborah Fries" <defries@state.pa.us>, "Debra Forman/R3/USEPA/US@EPA", "Diana K. Weiner" <dkweiner@comcast.net>, "Donna Suevo" <dsuevo@state.pa.us>, "Dottie Baumgarten" <dottiebaumgarten@gmail.com>, "Ed Lichstein" <edlichstein@comcast.net>, "Emma Raymont, P.E." <emmaraymont@magrann.com>, "Eva Monheim" <EMONHEIM@aol.com>, "Havar, Bryan" <BHavar@cheltenham-township.org>, "J. Noorman" <jnoorman@verizon.net>, "Janet Starwood" <jstarwood@audubon.org>, "Jeffrey Bacal" <bacalite@comcast.net>, "Jim Gorman" <Jimgorman10@gmail.com>, "Jim Innes" <james.innes@carrierclassrooms.com>, "Jonathan Essoka" <jessoka@verizon.net>, "Judith Gratz" <weitzhuis@comcast.net>, "Julie Slavet" <julie@ttfwatershed.org>, "Justin S. Moriconi, Esq." <justinm@jcdavisarchitects.com>, "Kathleen Foti" <kfoti@montgomerynews.com>, "Khiet Luong" <kuong@pecpa.org>, "Lorna Rosenberg/R3/USEPA/US", "Martha Mowry" <marthamowry@hotmail.com>, "Martin Carey" <mdcproductions@mac.com>, "Mary Beth Carroll" <MBCarroll@aol.com>, "Mary E. Myers" <mamyers@temple.edu>, "Mirian Moss" <mossm@arcadia.edu>, "Myron Goldman" <mgoldman13@comcast.net>, "Paul Gordon" <pwgordon@comcast.net>, "Robert Panebianco" <rpanebianco1951@yahoo.com>, "Sandra Cohen" <sandrakcohen@yahoo.com>, "Susan Dannenberg" <susandannenberg@gmail.com>, "Thomas Johnston" <tjohnston@thinkgreenllc.com>, "Tom Bale" <tombale@comcast.net>, "Tom McHugh" <tom.mchugh@monitordata.com>, "William Mettler" <WMMETTLER3@aol.com>

Date: 01/20/2012 04:30 PM

1/23/2012



**McDevitt, Kathryn**

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**From:** Dottie Baumgarten [dottiebaumgarten@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 22, 2012 10:21 PM  
**To:** McDevitt, Kathryn; Havir, Bryan; David McVeigh-Schultz; Barb Duffy; Lorna Rosenberg; Johnathan Essoka; Mirian Moss; Deb  
**Subject:** EAC Communications committee minutes January 2012  
**Attachments:** Communications Committee minutes January 2012.doc  
Communications Committee minutes

Deb Forman is beginning to work with Nancy Gibson on the EAC content of the Cheltenham Website. Several emails were exchanged between Deb, Dottie, Nancy, David McVeigh Shultz and others.

The Current EAC web presence is being reviewed as a starting point, along with the Preliminary Outline below that was made in the (recent) past.

Cheltenham Township EAC Webpage  
Preliminary Outline

Building Green- Green Codes

- Instillation of Solar Panels
- Geothermal
- Renovation and adding to older homes (Nancy has a piece on this)
- Design Professionals - Lead Certified
- Salvage Space?
- School District Lead Certified

Learning Green ( all events must be open to the public)

- Classes at the High School?
- Cedarbrook
- Night School
- Arcadia – environmental Education
- Primex Classes

Our Green Habitat

- Water shed
- Native species
- Plants- Backyard, Lawn, Invasives to avoid.

Eating Green:

- Farmers Markets
- Gardening
- Food Co-op
- Getting around Green
- Walking
- Biking
- Septa

Green Civics

EAC- minutes

Leaf pick up schedule

Township Cleanups

Recycling

- Applicable township ordinances?

Sustainability plan- information and updates

Submitted by Dottie Baumgarten

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Dottie Baumgarten

Sustainable Choices

Environmental Education Consultant

Philadelphia Water Department Tour Guide

<http://www.sustainchoices.net/>

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**McDevitt, Kathryn**

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**From:** tzipporah@comcast.net  
**Sent:** Monday, January 23, 2012 2:05 PM  
**To:** Dottie Baumgarten  
**Cc:** McDevitt, Kathryn; Havir, Bryan; David McVeigh-Schultz; Barb Duffy; Lorna Rosenberg; Johnathan Essoka; Mirian Moss  
**Subject:** Re: EAC Communications committee minutes January 2012...addendum to committee minutes  
**Attachments:** EAC Communications committee minutes January 2012

EAC Web Presence Update:

1. Conversations with Township Communications Coordinator, Nancy Gibson are ongoing.
2. To Date: the following has been established:
  - a. Technical considerations include that the website was designed and is hosted by MunicipalCMS and has a specific template we must work within.
  - b. One click Access: The homepage at <http://www.cheltenhamtownship.org> may have a link on the left hand Blue Bar for Environmental Issues. This will lead directly to the main EAC page
  - c. Other Access: The EAC page is also accessible under Government/Citizen Committees and links from the Residents Page and Business Page will also be added.
  - d. Content: The content on the main EAC page is recommended to be topical according to the Preliminary Outline attached to Dottie's email. Each topic will include a description, relevant information and have a link to the relevant EAC committee handling the topic.  
Topics will include "Special Projects" such as America in Bloom and the Sustainability Plan, others as appropriate.  
In addition, a page that describes the EAC, what it does, who we are, and our partners (including Transition Cheltenham, CCC, Floodside, TTF, etc) will be added.  
Pictures may be added in boxes along the right hand side of the main EAC page.
  - e. The main goal of this page is to become a one-stop shop for all things environmental in Cheltenham township.
3. As soon as the content is completed, Nancy stands ready to assist us in making the pages live.
4. Next Steps: Develop Topical content.



## Tour of Cheltenham Township Flooding Sites

1-12-12

### Attendees

**Cheltenham Township**  
**Patrick Duffy**  
**Mike Fleming**  
**Bryan Havir**  
**David Kraynik**  
**David Lynch**

**PA Environmental Council**  
**Meagan Gonzales**  
**Rebecca Kennedy**  
**Paul Racette**

**Cheltenham EAC**  
**Lorna Rosenberg**

**Montgomery County Planning  
Commission (resident)**  
**Hannah Mazzaccaro**

**Philadelphia Water Department**  
**Lance Butler**  
**Erik Haniman**

**Tookany/Tacony-Frankford Watershed  
Partnership**  
**Julie Slavet**  
**Amy Steffen, Board Member**

**Friends of High School Park**  
**Diana Weiner**

Introductions in a round and welcome by Amy Steffen. This was a thought sharing meeting. No conclusions will be drawn.

Mr. Lynch explained that the document we are working from is a draft working list for short term mitigation measures. Residents were up in arms about flooding from Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee. Citizens want action and the township was asked to respond within 90 days. It is now over 90 days.

During meetings after the events suggestions for response were made that that involve dredging, removal of sand bars and building retention ponds where necessary along the 13 square miles of the Tookany Creek that winds through Philadelphia and then empties into the Delaware River.

At each of the stops it was stressed again and again by PWD and PEC representatives that a hydrology study needs to be done. It was also stressed that some of these measures may be effective in the short term, but may not be effective in the long term and could in fact be detrimental. There is also a difference between armoring properties against flooding and altering the stream.

The cost of buying out the 60 potential properties could be less than streambank restoration.

### **Stop # 1 – C-4 Downstream from High School Park bridge along northerly bank**

Any work done will need permits which will require a hydrology study to look upstream at solutions and to determine where the water has gone, is going and will go in the future.

The first residence adjacent to the bridge on the north side has a tree filled bank.

Coffin blocks were suggested in the short term plan. These would sit on top of the slope at the edge of the lawn.

### **Stops # 2 & 3 – D-8 From High School Road Bridge to Mill Rd. Dredging/Cleaning and Detention Basins**

Old Athletic Field – need 200 Acre feet of area to install an effective detention basin. Ours is too small for that application. David Lynch expressed that it is also a life safety and aesthetics issue that prohibits its use here.

Rebecca thought there could be floodplain restoration here.

Dredging was suggested for this area.

### **Stop # 4 – P-12 Mill Road Bridge**

The Mill Rd. Bridge is causing more issues with its narrowness. An overflow weir and a tunnel under Mill Rd. as well as an emergency spillway were all future ideas for this hard hit area.

Coffin block wall suggested by David Lynch on creekside at service road behind homes

Again, a detailed hydrology study is needed to see what storms you would capture. First, headwater streams should be looked at, Baeder Creek in Abington.

60 properties are on a list for buy outs by the Township due to the flooding disaster with an estimated cost of @ \$10M.

Look at what happens if solicitors become involved and short term fix does not solve problem, causing Township liability?

**Shoemaker Rd.** – in 2006 the dam was removed which dropped the level of the creek 3 feet.

Dredging may save ¼ - 2" of water only and destroys aquatic wildlife.

This is an alluvial system, dredging is not effective as the sand, silt and rock will come back with each flooding event.

Again, we need a hydrology study and many permits.

**Glenside** – Parking lot with Open Space Funds as part of the Greenway Plan.

Make a riparian buffer need a HH study here as well.

Suggestion: Create an extensive wetlands.

Bottom line: a base hydrology map needs to be done. We are still using FEMA studies that are very outdated. The boundaries are changing.

## **America in Bloom Evaluation Summary**

The evaluation covered eight (8) topics during the Cheltenham visit. For each topic, the report noted positive and negative attributes and concluded with suggestions to improve the township's competency in that particular area.

This summary will address the most notable township-wide strengths and weaknesses according to the AIB judges and will cover only certain site-specific recommendations.

### **Tidiness Effort**

#### Positive

- It is clear that maintenance has been given priority throughout the township
- Township is litter free
- Many signs identifying parks and public spaces are new and accompanied by planting areas

#### Negative

- Significant number of smaller signs need to be repaired and reset

#### Recommendations

- Fix small signs
- Replace or reposition garbage receptacles at mall entrances
- Enact a curb replacement and repair plan
- Enact a sidewalk weed removal plan

### **Environmental Effort**

#### Positive

- Development and implementation of the Tookany Creek Watershed Management Plan
- High School Park cleanup project
- Access to public transportation at attractive stations
- Commitment to composting
- Community involvement
- Myers Elementary LEED recognition

#### Recommendations

- Add bike racks
- Information exchange between commercial, municipal and institutional large property maintenance directors to coordinate efforts against pest infestation, diseases and invasive plants
- Consider a No Idle ordinance
- Installation of motion sensors for lighting and faucets in public restrooms
- Integrated pest management program

### **Community Involvement**

#### Positive

- High level of volunteerism especially in Tookany Creek Watershed and the five community gardens

### Recommendations

- Establish an ad hoc community garden group or hire a garden coordinator
- Install large portable water containers or cisterns for LaMott Community Garden
- Encourage tours of private gardens and charge fee to fund community garden efforts
- Create 'Irrigation Teams' to water floral displays
- Form a commission to work with state highways to improve state roads
- Site a hotel or motel in township
- Target senior centers for volunteers
- Monitor Dog Park via sign in

### **Heritage**

#### Positive

- Township responsible for six buildings on the National Historic Registry and two National Landmarks
- Reuse of structures for multiple uses
- Municipality listening to citizen development concerns
- Preservation and restoration programs are impressive, including in the private sector
- LaMott's sense of community

#### Negative

- Tyler Mansion and Widener Mansion in disrepair
- Absence of references to Camp William Penn other than a sign

### Recommendations

- Enact a "Negligent Act Law" to stop site declines
- Assist LaMott in preserving its heritage
- Create a consistent design for heritage plaques
- Educate others on Cheltenham's cultural history and architecture

### **Urban Forestry**

#### Positive

- Many acres of well-forested land with diversity of mature trees
- Active tree replacement program

### Recommendations

- More aggressive tree-planting program, especially in certain target areas
- Tree inventory and assessment with annual plan of care
- Add arborist to staff
- Proactive tree pruning program
- Addition of container trees in commercial sector
- Formally establish Curtis Arboretum as an Arboretum (501C3)

## **Landscaped Areas**

### Positive

- Many attractive landscaped vistas
- Private sector front yard gardens

### Recommendations

- Use website to publish information about native plant material
- Create Landscape Awards to encourage front yard gardens
- Annual private gardens tour to raise funds for community gardens
- Expand invasive species program to address growth beyond riparian buffer in public park
- Unify commercial districts in one cohesive way while creating individual themes

## **Floral Displays**

### Recommendations

- Add substantial floral displays, including: window boxes, hanging baskets, to identify important intersections, to attract business
- Group displays for more impact, especially in smaller commercial sections
- Establish a 501C3 to do floral displays and allow business deductions when improving properties

## **Turf and Ground Cover Areas**

### Recommendations

- More use of ground covers in commercial zones
- Development of open meadows in "common land" where drainage control needed or to reduce mowing

