

The regular meeting of the Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) was held tonight.

Voting members present were: Dottie Baumgarten, Sandy Cohen, Barbara Duffy, Miriam Moss and David McVeigh-Schultz. Other interested public in attendance were: Bridgett Chadwick and Tom McHugh. Guests: Cynthia Blackwood and Julie Slavet. Staff present: Bryan T. Havir, Assistant Township Manager (See attached attendance sheet).

1. ***Call to Order*** – Mr. Havir called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.
2. ***Introduction of Members*** – Since new members were present, introductions were made.
3. ***Annual Reorganization/Election of Officers.*** - Mr. Havir opened the floor for nominations for Chair. Ms. Duffy made a motion, seconded by Miriam Moss to nominate David Schultz, as Chair. Having no other nominations, Mr. Havir closed nominations for Chair. The members voted unanimously for Mr. Schultz as Chair. Mr. Schultz assumed the chair and thanked the membership for its support. Mr. Schultz opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chair. Ms. Schultz nominated Barbara Duffy for Vice-Chair. Ms. Duffy declined. Mr. Schultz then nominated Lorna Rosenberg; seconded by Ms. Baumgarten. Nominations were closed for Vice-Chair. Discussion on the motion. Mr. Havir collaborated Mr. Schultz's understanding (in Ms. Rosenberg's absence) of her willingness to serve. The members unanimously voted for Ms. Rosenberg as Vice-Chair.
4. ***Acceptance of Meeting Minutes*** –Ms. Duffy made a motion to accept the minutes as submitted; seconded by Ms. Moss. The motion was unanimously approved.
5. ***Committee Reports*** -
 - A. ***Energy Committee*** – Mr. Schultz asked for nominations for Chair of the Energy Committee. Mr. McHugh volunteered to chair the committee. The consensus of the members was to have Mr. McHugh serve in that capacity this year.

Ms. Chadwick suggested putting out notices on how to join the EAC to attract new members from different sections of the Township. Ms. Blackwood offered to advertise in the Friends of High School Park newsletter.

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

- Watershed/Flooding Ad Hoc Committee - Ms. Duffy reported that the committee met on February 19, 2012 with the purpose of working on stormwater management recommendations to the Township Commissioners based on four (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 projects for recommendation. The sub-committee met again on February 27, 2012 to try to re-organize and refine the information currently found in the ten page document. Ms. Duffy asked for suggestions for best format. Mr. Havir suggested taking Best Management Practice headers then adding site specific information. Long term solutions should include broad categories which include infiltration, wetlands and floodplain reclamation project areas.

Mr. Schultz commented that most types of infiltration, wetlands, and floodplain reclamation projects were listed by project sites in the Act 167 Stormwater Plan, or other township plans. He explained that many of the other project installation recommendations were listed as percentages of all available sites within the township, rather than being identified as specific geographic locations. For instance, the Act 167 Plan provides a map of all of the parking lots located within the township and recommends that all of these

receive a storm water treatment. It was recommended that half of those sites would be appropriate for employing infiltration measures to absorb runoff from impervious pavement, and that the other half of the parking sites would be appropriate to replace the existing pavement with pervious pavement. Mr. Schultz reported that the Watershed Committee had identified a group of parking lots located on township lands, and was considering recommending them as sites for study of short term action.

Mr. Schultz also explained that while the Act 167 Plan proposed specific wetlands and tree planting project sites, other best management practices, such as cisterns, rain gardens and dry wells recommendations did not include specific site locations, but only treatment site types. Examples are: Dry wells and/or rain gardens (25% residences, and all schools) and Rain barrels and cisterns 10% of residences.

Mr. Havir asked to be copied on the draft.

- Earth Day Festival - Ms. Duffy met with Karen Saffran at Cedarbrook Middle School on February 10, 2012 to brainstorm for the 2012 Community Earth Day Festival now scheduled for April 28, 2012 from noon to 3:00 p.m. at the Cedarbrook Middle School. The focus will be on energy conservation based on their curriculum and award of a PECO Green Region grant. Ms. Duffy will work with the 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. Julie Slavet noted that TTF will participate with a rain barrel demonstration, and perhaps offer riparian buffer talk and/or rain garden cross section. Mr.

McHugh offered to reach out to Janet Starwood regarding her generator bike demonstration.

- Community Earth Day Projects – Target date is Saturday, April 22, 2012. E-mails have gone out to various community groups to sponsor an earth day project. Ms. Duffy will write up information for an e-mail blast to EAC supporters and community for the Earth Day projects. Ms. Duffy has sent e-mails to Elkins Park Elementary School and will also contact the Rotary.
- Riparian Corridor Conservation Draft Ordinance has been amended by the County Planner and will be scheduled for review by Township Staff.
- The Native Plant draft ordinance is completed and needs to be reviewed before the Ad Hoc Zoning Committee.
- Tree Ordinance Model Research –Ms. Duffy reported research continues.
- Storm drain marking in Wyncote area– Ms. Duffy reported TTFWP is looking for volunteer(s) to help with Arcadia University social action class students on March 8, 2012. Please contact TTFWP.
- Mural Arts Project – The kick off meeting held on Wednesday February 22, 2012 at Glenside Hall was well attended. Ideas for the mural were creative and the next meeting is on Tuesday, March 27, 2012 at Glenside Hall when some concept sketches from the artist will be reviewed.

Mr. Schultz inquired about the status of Curtis Arboretum Landscape Management Plan and Ralph Morgan Park Streambank Restoration projects. Mr. Havir outlined the project schedule for Curtis Arboretum: Request for Proposal (RFP) will be developed and given to DCNR for review and approval. We also need to include a proposed list of steering committee members of

community stakeholders in the packet. There is a deadline of March 27 per the Township's contract with DCNR. . The intent is for the steering committee to meet with the consultant for the duration of the project while creating the Master Plan for Landscape Management and Conservation. The project will most likely take two years from start to completion. Members of the steering committee would likely include members from the EAC, Curtis Dog Park Committee, Wyncote, Parks & Recreation, Township Manager, Assistant Township Manager, Public Works personnel. Mr. Havir suggested Ms. Chadwick, Ms. Myers, Mr. Rosenberg, Ms Duffy, Mr. Essoka and a representative from Arcadia University. Mr. Schultz suggested including the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College and Transition Town, as additional members of the steering committee. Mr. Schultz would like to meet with Mr. Havir to discuss. Mr. Schultz agreed to send out an e-mail requesting that EAC members volunteer for the steering committee. Mr. Schultz inquired about including wetland enhancement, tree planting and water infiltration projects in the Arboretum's Master Plan. Discussion ensued regarding wetland area in the Arboretum such as the Dog Park and Ms. Chadwick noted that the park area across from Accomac Road is soggy and it would otherwise provide easy access by foot and bike through the arboretum.

Mr. Havir indicated that the Township last month hired Monroe Ecological Services, Inc. to design the plans and bid specifications for the Streambank Restoration at Ralph Morgan Park that will be performed as per the recent County Open Space Grant. The plans will be reviewed by the EAC, Township Staff and the Public Works Committee before the project is let to bid. The grant will pay for bio-engineering; not wall repairs.

C. Transportation Committee – Mr. McHugh added that he supported Ms. Chadwick's concerns and comments about the need for better access from the Wyncote neighborhood north of Church Road to Cedarbrook Middle School through Curtis Arboretum and the linear parcel

where the Rock Creek tributary flows.

Mr. McHugh asked the EAC members to consider commenting on-line to the 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. Anyone can apply.

Ms. Chadwick questioned the DVRPC Board about process and work at the regional level. She would like to see listed for every project on Transportation Improvement Projects (TIP) 1) what is existing for all users of highway 2) what is proposed and 3) the benefit or negative impact. For example: turning lanes benefit motorists. Additionally, Bicycle Coalition of Greater Philadelphia has a complete streets policy and Ms. Chadwick would like to see Montgomery County adopt a similar policy.

Tom McHugh asked if Ms. Chadwick would accept another term as Chair of the Transportation Committee for 2012. She said she would and the Council approved her appointment.

D. Buildings Committee – Ms. Rosenberg was not present but did provide a written report. (See attached).

E. Communications Committee – Ms. Baumgarten presented a written report (See attached). Ms. Baumgarten noted that constant contact messages will be going out this month. Ms. Forman and Ms. Baumgarten have been in contact with Ms. Gibson regarding the EAC page website design.

Ms. Baumgarten also reported that she had provided lectures on stormwater best management practices to the Glenside Rotary on February 8, 2012 to 25 participants and at Primex Garden Center on February 18, 2012 to 14 participants.

6. Old Business:

A. *Website Development* – Ms. Forman was not present to offer a report. Mr. Havar shared a sample of the Abington Township EAC Website layout. The Abington EAC partners with the Abington Shade Tree Commission. It was noted, the format and layout of the Abington EAC website was a good model to follow.

B. *Sustainability Plan Development* – Mr. McHugh noted in Ms. Rosenberg's absence that the goals established are acceptable by the general committee and have been approved by the Board of Commissioners. Mr. McHugh did express concern that attendance seems to be dwindling.

Mr. Havar noted that the identification of objectives for the first three goals consisting of energy, public participation and transportation was the focus of the last General Committee meeting. All ten goals will be presented at a Community Open House scheduled for March 15, 2012 at Curtis Hall from 6-9 p.m. Power Point Presentations ten minutes in length will be presented at 6:00, 7:00 and 8:00 p.m. Stations will be located around the Room. Interactive maps will be on display. A table for America In Bloom will be provided. The event will be advertised in the Times Chronicle and via Press Releases. The Open House is open to all.

C. *America in Bloom Evaluation Report* – Mr. Essoka was not present to discuss implementation plans for 2012. Discussion was tabled until the next meeting.

7. *New Business* – Cynthia Blackwood, Executive Vice President of the Friends of High School Park was present to discuss a WREN Grant proposal due April 1, 2012 for a Resident

Stormwater Management Workshop series previously developed by Abington Township. Ms. Blackwood asked for support of the Cheltenham Township EAC for the educational program and partnership by promoting through e-blasts and attending or possibly presenting at a workshop. The educational program topics are: Green Your Lawns; Trees for Cheltenham; Rain Barrels and You, and Living Streamside. The intent is to build upon existing education programs that were developed for the headwaters section of the TTF watershed and work on the educational programs to effectuate change in Cheltenham downstream. Mr. Schultz will e-mail information to Ms. Blackwood. Mr. Havir offered to assist with writing a support letter for the grant. Ms. Chadwick mentioned educational materials from a Growing Greener Grant she had worked on in Ambler Borough on reducing chemicals on residential properties may be useful.

Pennsylvania Horticultural Society (PHS) Tree Plant One Million Trees Initiative and Tree Tenders® Training. – Ms. Julie Slavet, Executive Director of Tookany-Tacony/ Frankford Watershed Partnership (TTFWP) addressed the group regarding Regional Training for Tree Tenders which will be taught at Meadowbrook Farm on April 10, 17 and 24, 2012. TTF will try to support the Tree Tenders in the watershed as PHS needs to accomplish its goals. A Tree Tender meeting in the City will be held at La Salle University on February 28, 2012.

TTF has worked with bigger organizations such as the Horticultural Society and Parks and Recreation of Philadelphia for survey of neighborhoods with low canopy such as West Oak Lane and Frankford. Contractors have been hired to plant and maintain for a specific period of time. Mr. Havir noted that the 2008 Street Tree Planting project in the Township was very successful and that the Township has continued to take requests for trees by maintaining a waiting list. He asked Ms. Slavet to research how the Township can get the native trees – both for streambank buffers and street trees. The EAC will put a list together of tree tenders and put an announcement in a newsletter for April dates.

TTF Watershed Milestone Award Nominations – Ms. Slavet explained that TTF is looking for nominations of people and/or organizations who work to improve and protect the TTF watershed. Awards will be presented at the first annual Watershed Milestone Award Ceremony & Reception on May 31 at Fairmount Water Works Interpretive Center in Philadelphia. Nominations are due by March 15, 2012. Mr. Schultz suggested educator awards to a teaching group (Karen Saffron and Debi DiBatista) at Cedarbrook Middle School. Ms. Moss made a motion to nominate Ms. Saffron and Ms. Dibatista; seconded by Ms. Duffy and unanimously approved.

8. Other Business –

Mr. Havir discussed plans for planting native oak trees in Ralph Morgan Park for Arbor Day. He shared a quotation from Primex for \$125 per tree. There are sufficient funds to plant two trees. The EAC agreed to purchase an additional tree for \$125 from its budget so three trees could be planted for the celebration. Ms. Moss made a formal motion; seconded by Ms. Duffy and approved.

Mr. Havir facilitated discussion on purchasing a carton of special color paper (teal) \$88.88 for printing Earth Day educational materials/announcements. Following discussion with objections about using paper with dyes, and other budgetary concerns, Ms. Duffy made a motion to proceed with purchasing the teal colored paper; seconded by Ms. Baumgarten.

9. Announcements

- o Cresheim Trail – The next meeting of the Steering Committee was scheduled for February 28, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. at Susan Dannenberg's home in Chestnut Hill.

- o C2P2 funding for 2013 – Governor Corbett proposes to zero out Conservation, Park and Recreation Funding in the state’s 2013 budget. You may wish to call or email your state senator and representative.
- o National Lands Trust – Please mark calendars for the annual meeting on May 31, 2011 at the Montgomery County Community College in Blue Bell.

10. Adjournment – Ms. Moss made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Ms.

Baumgarten. The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.



David G. Kraynik
Township Manager

Submitted by:
Kathryn McDevitt

Watershed Committee Report: EAC Meeting February 27, 2012

* **Watershed/flooding Ad Hoc Committee** met on Sunday, February 19th and started to put together research from the four Adopted township plans --The EAC's Watershed Ad Hoc Committee offered 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 (2006) in order to identify site-specific projects for recommendation. We had hoped to have a document to present at this meeting but the task is still being worked on.

***2012 Cheltenham Community Earth Day Festival** --Met with Karen Shaffran and other science teachers at Cedarbrook MS on 2/10. They need to change the date of the Earth Day Festival due to some grant stipulations--so the Festival's will now be on Saturday, April 28th -- still at Cedarbrook MS and from Noon to 3pm. Please invite community groups to join as vendors and as participants. We will be having an EDF planning meeting on Wednesday, February 29th at Cedarbrook MS at 7pm.
WE NEED VOLUNTEERS! And We NEED an email message to go out ASAP re: date change.

***2012 Cheltenham Community Earth Day Projects**--emails have gone out to various community groups to ask who wishes to sponsor an earth day project this year. Several responses have already come in--including--La Mott Community Gardeners, Keswick Underpass neighbors, and Ralph Morgan Park. Our target date for the township-wide projects is **Saturday, April 22**. Email message needs to go out to EAC supporters and community.

* **Mural Arts Project**- The kick off meeting was Wednesday, February 22 at Glenside Hall. There was a good group of community members in attendance from both Abington and Cheltenham Townships, as well as SEPTA representatives and Commissioner Drew Sharkey. The ideas for the mural were very creative and the next meeting will bring us some concept sketches from the artist. Next meeting is **Tuesday March 27th at 6:30 at Glenside Hall**.

***TTFWP**- will be working with Arcadia students to mark storm drain inlets in the Wyncote area on Thursday March 8th. If you wish to help contact TTF Partnership.

***Riparian Corridor Conservation District Ordinance** draft went to the Ad Hoc Zoning committee on September 26th and was reviewed and approved with minor changes. Still 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 8th with storm drain marking with Arcadia students.

Lorna Rosenberg – Building Committee

It has been a busy month. The school district has many exciting accomplishments this past month.

The High School, Cedarbrook, Elkins Park School and Wyncote applied for the Green Ribbon Schools Pilot from the US Department of Education. The applications went to the State Department of Education for consideration. If any of our schools are among the top in PA they will compete at the national level. The Cheltenham schools will be recognized for applying from the Delaware Valley Green Building Council.

Students at the High School and Cedarbrook formulating are beginning powerdown days where they will be monitoring energy reduction from turning off lights and unplugging equipment.

I am continuing to work with students and staff at the High School on a presentation to the School Board for a green roof at the Wyncote School design for 2013.

The RFP for the Cheltenham School new design does in fact include a green roof and will be LEED certified.

The Myers elementary school will have a LEED plaque ceremony on April 27 @ 3:30 the community will be invited.

Sustainable Cheltenham – the 10 goals are completed and will be showcased at an open house on March 15 @ Curtis Hall. <http://www.sustainablecheltenham.com/>

Communication Committee Report February 2012:

Emails have been sent between Deb Forman, Dottie Baumgarten, and Nancy Gibson laying the beginning ground work for Constant Contact and website information, and will continue. Effort has been put into stormwater mitigation recommendations from the EAC to the Commissioners based on the four Stormwater Management Documents, and will continue.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dottie Baumgarten