

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

Voting members present were: Dottie Baumgarten, Sandy Cohen, Barbara Duffy, Jonathan Essoka, Deb Forman and David McVeigh-Schultz. Other interested public in attendance were:
Staff present: Bryan T. Havir, Assistant Township Manager. Guest: Commissioner and Board President Art Haywood. (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** – Ms. Duffy made a motion to accept the minutes as submitted; seconded by Ms. Baumgarten. The motion was unanimously approved.
3. **Presentation** - Commissioner Haywood provided a short presentation on automated recycling, utilizing a line chart on a graph for illustrative purposes to compare cost for Township municipal services to that of surrounding communities. Mr. Haywood provided a sample of the approximate size (36 gallon) of one possible recycling container. Discussion with the EAC members following the presentation included the following topics:
 - Stabilize tax increases on homeowners.
 - Shift focus from refuse disposal to recycling.
 - Co-mingling to single stream has made it easier for homeowners to recycle. Volume has increased and more containers may be needed; not just as large as proposed.
 - Reduce transportation costs to landfill and reduce tipping fees.
 - Cost of two new collection vehicles and cost for retrofitting existing vehicles, if any should be made clear.
 - Explore purchase of hybrid recycling trucks and calculate the emission reductions.
 - Return on investment.
 - Develop a public education and outreach program.
 - Look at free recycling program for large products.
 - Publicize recycling at special community events to raise awareness and promote increased recycling.
 - Pay as you throw should be examined and considered as an alternative program for refuse.
 - Concerns expressed of the maneuverability of the recycling container that was shown.

Commissioner Haywood noted that the Township Administration was currently assessing the overall operation of the proposed automated recycling program and these suggestions will be taken into consideration. Commissioner Haywood thanked the EAC for the time on its agenda to discuss the topic.

4. Committee Reports -

A. Energy Committee – Mr. McHugh commented on the natural gas glut so prices should remain low for some time.

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

- Watershed/Flooding Ad Hoc Committee - Ms. Duffy reported that the committee met again March 19, 2012 with the purpose of putting final touches on the draft report of stormwater management site specific project 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), so that it would be ready to present at the next Public Works Committee meeting on April 11, 2012. Ms. Duffy will edit. Ms. Forman would like to see one more draft which would reflect the changes discussed at the most recent meeting. Following discussion about completion of report, Ms. Baumgarten made a motion to recommend approval of the current document subject to minor editing which will be completed by April 4, 2011 and attached to the meeting minutes; seconded by Ms. Forman and approved by majority. Mr. Essoka abstained. (See attached). Discussion continued regarding the Army Corp of Engineer's (ACOE) sponsorship agreement which will be a contract agreement between the Township and ACOE for scope of work (deliverables, timeframe and budget) which will be reviewed at the Public Works Committee Meeting on April 11, 2012.

Mr. Mc Hugh noted that at the last Public Works Committee Meeting it was announced that the ACOE draft contract would be posted on the Township website for public to review (pages 6-15). Ms. Forman recommended that the EAC be provided with an advance copy before the meeting and the EAC concurred. Mr. Havir agreed to convey that request to the Township Manager.

- Tookany-Tacony/Frankford Watershed Partnership (TTFWP) – Ms. Duffy and Mr. Schultz met with TTFWP's Executive Director on March 7, 2012 regarding prospects for collaboration on possible watershed education projects with the EAC. At the meeting TTFWP's Executive Director expressed interest in facilitating Act 167 Stormwater Plan information and discussion with municipal engineers and managers in Abington, Cheltenham, Jenkintown and Rockledge, and engaging a representative of each town's Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) in that process. The Director committed to schedule a meeting with members of all of the EAC's in those townships to reintroduce them to TTFWP and to their programs and activities regarding watershed and stormwater management. She also expressed her willingness to have TTFWP staff partner with Cheltenham's EAC members in making educational presentations at as many as 20 regularly scheduled civic group meetings in Cheltenham over the next 12 months. The presentations would focus on watershed preservation and management and opportunities for citizen and institutional participation in that effort. (The presentations could help Cheltenham Township meet its obligations under the PA Dept. of Environmental Protection's MS4 pollution prevention regulations). The Watershed Committee agreed at its meeting to recruit speaker volunteers and

review the Township administration's Stormwater Management Guide to Small Businesses as a template for the EAC's presentation in preparation to agreeing to partner with TTFWP in the presentations.

- Earth Day Festival - Ms. Duffy will meet again with Karen Shaffran at Cedarbrook Middle School on March 27, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. or at Ms. Shaffran's home (TBD), 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 TTFWP on stormwater best management practices presentation. Ms. Duffy will also reach out to volunteers with connections for energy demonstration projects.
- Ms. Duffy attended A Tree Tenders® Training meeting at La Salle University to begin to formulate plans on increasing tree coverage in the region, including Montgomery County, as part of Pennsylvania Horticultural Society (PHS) Tree Plant One Million Trees Initiative and Tree Tenders® Training. Members commented that there are several tree tender groups but no communication mechanism has been provided for them to communicate and stay connected. Ms. Baumgarten asked to be a part of the regional tree tender group. New training begins in three weeks at Meadowbrook Farms on April 10, 17, 24, 2012. Ms. Cohen would like to attend. Mr. Havir may attend as well.

- Community Earth Day Projects – Target date is Saturday, April 21, 2012. E-mails have gone out to various community groups to sponsor an earth day project. There are no groups signed up for clean-up at Wall Park; however, at least ten other park sites have group sponsors.
- 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 that she was informed that twenty volunteers from TTFWP and students from the Arcadia University social action class marked 19 storm drains on March 8, 2012 in the Wyncote neighborhood.
- Mural Arts Project – Ms. Duffy reported the kick off meeting held on Wednesday, February 22, 2012 at Glenside Hall was well attended and good concepts were discussed. The artist will present concept sketches based on the comments offered at the next meeting on Tuesday, March 27, 2012 at Glenside Hall.

C. Transportation Committee – Ms. Chadwick was not present to offer her report.

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 which was distributed and reviewed at the meeting. (See attached).

5. Old Business:

A. *Website Development* – Ms. Forman reviewed her written report. (See attached). She has organized the EAC website to reflect what the EAC is currently doing. The new Mission Statement needs to be added. Categories include:

1. Organization: a) Who We Are, b) Our Partners and c) Five Topic Lists:
 - o *Building Green* – (EAC Contacts): Lorna Rosenberg and Tom McHugh
 - o *Learning Green* – (EAC Contact): Lorna Rosenberg
 - o *Our Green Habitat* – (EAC Contact): Barbara Duffy
 - o *Living Green* – (EAC Contact): Bridgett Chadwick
 - o *Green Civics* – Provide links on Township Website to other sites promoting green civics issues.

Mr. Schultz made a motion to approve the five topics; seconded by Ms. Duffy and unanimously approved. Discussion continued and Ms. Forman asked members to provide links to her. Additionally, the members asked for an EAC link on the front page. Mr. Havir stated that this had been discussed previously and the members decided it should be called the Green Corner. He will coordinate with the Public Information Officer to determine if this could be added to the home page.

2. Public Interaction: This currently consists of Constant Contact, E-Notification and Ask a Question. Both forms of communication, constant contact and e-notification were discussed. It was felt that messages should go out to both lists. Mr. Havir noted that interested

parties must voluntarily sign up for e-notifications on the township website. It was decided that discussion on the one way communication would be considered at the next phase.

B. Sustainability Plan Development – Mr. Havir noted that the Cheltenham Township Sustainability Plan Community Open House was held on March 15, 2012 from 6 – 9 p.m. The meeting was well attended. The ten goals were well placed and well crafted for visibility. Stickers were available for attendees. A ten-minute power point presentation was presented on the hour from 6 – 8:00 p.m. MCPC will provide feedback. The planning/implementation phase will move to a sub-committee of the EAC on a temporary basis, subject to the EAC's approval, then to perhaps a non-profit organization. Mr. Schultz inquired if there was a plan to create performance measures (quantify/metrics). The Steering Committee has discussed how to represent for each objective. Mr. Havir indicated there would be some data collection from the EAC sub-committee. Identification of objectives for the first three goals consisting of energy, public participation and transportation was the focus of the last General Committee meeting. Process: Implementation direction on how to achieve objectives in the interim by 2020. The Board of Commissioners will eventually review and be asked to adopt the planned approve milestones. There will be two phases: Municipal and Community. The draft final plan is to be completed in June. Mr. McHugh added that two meetings prior to the Open House meeting, nine goals had been determined and a tenth was added to address the monitoring process which will be discussed at the next break-out meetings.

The chairman of the Sustainability Committee has proposed that planning/implementation of any objectives, targets and action items that are approved by the Sustainability Committee and the Commissioners, should be the responsibility of the EAC, and that a new EAC committee should be established to recommend planning/implementation actions. The EAC did not agree to this

recommendation. Mr. Schultz asked EAC members to consider assuming a more limited range of responsibilities at a later meeting, subject to consultation with the Sustainability Committee's leaders.

C. *America in Bloom (AIB) Evaluation Report* – Mr. Essoka reviewed his written report regarding prioritized implementation projects for 2012 based on the report from the AIB national judges. (See attached). Mr. Essoka focused on four areas: A. Tidiness: 1) fix small park signs, 2) repair curbs that were cracked and 3) weed removal. Discussion ensued about the Township being a complaint based system. B. Community Involvement: 1) incentivize property owners to upgrade foliage through contests for best gardens, tours, etc. C. Landscape Awards and D. Heritage: 1) La Mott Camp William Penn – emphasize architecture, history and improve signage.

Discussion ensued about construction of rain gardens in various locations of the Township to promote green infrastructure and help with stormwater infiltration. This could be a project for local garden clubs; promote garden clubs, La Mott AME Church and Beth Shalom food banks; ~~Robinson Park Community Garden, Old York Road herb garden or Transition Town.~~ Perhaps the Township could hold a Community Garden Summit to raise funds. Ms. Forman will organize a planning group and Mr. Essoka agreed to collect information and Mr. Schultz will send e-mail to each of the chairs of other citizen committees with the goal of implementing by the end of this year.

Ms. Duffy suggested asking Ms. Chadwick who has an interest in integrated pest control management to develop an integrated pest control management program. Mr. Schultz tabled discussion to the next meeting.

6. *New Business*

Mr. Schultz reported that he had contacted PEC staff to see if a similar arrangement might be made between PEC and the Tookany-Tacony/Frankford Watershed Partnership, to provide a comparable watershed status report for residents of Philadelphia and townships located within our watershed.

watershed. Mr. Schultz further explained that he was informed that the close collaboration between PEC and the Wissahickon Watershed Association is due to their ongoing corporate ties, and that since TTF is completely independent from PEC, collaboration on a TTF Watershed status report would have to be negotiated between the two parties.

7. Other Business –

The topic of stormwater management surveys was discussed. Mr. Havar stated that the Township sent out approximately 2,000 packets of information to the commercial property owners including Stormwater Best Management Practices (BMP's). A business survey was conducted with a chance to win a gift basket if the survey was filled out and returned to the Township. Additionally, a stormwater survey, "Your Clean Water Know-How", was created on the Township Website powered by SurveyMonkey to be completed by the residents and general public. Ms. Gibson is tracking responses.

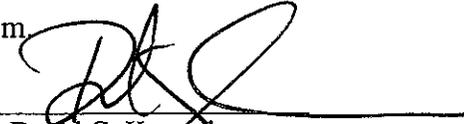
8. Staff Announcements

- ~~o~~ Mr. Havar noted that AIB had an exhibit at the Philadelphia Flower show and won Prestigious Community Involvement Award.
- o Clean Waters pamphlet. Ms. Gibson and Mr. Havar are working on a new Cheltenham Hidden Streams Pamphlet. And, MS4 Public Education Outreach was also being produced.
- o Emerald Ash Borer -- Information was distributed to members. Infestation of ash borer destroying Ash Trees was found in Warrington and Warminster Townships, Bucks County. Mr. Havar will address the Shade Tree Commission on this subject at their next meeting. EAC suggested getting information out to the public.

March 19, 2012 7:30 p.m.
Township Administration Building

- o Mr. Havar reminded the EAC that at the last meeting it agreed to provide a support letter to Friends of High School Park (FHSP) for the WREN grant. He distributed a project partner form for the EAC Chairman to sign.

9. Adjournment – Mr. Essoka made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Ms. Baumgarten. The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m.



David G. Kraynik
Township Manager

Submitted by:
Kathryn McDevitt



Watershed Committee Report: EAC Meeting March 19, 2012

* On February 28th attended the TTF Partnership sponsored "Tree Tender's Meet & Greet" at LaSalle College. The purpose of the meeting was to emphasize the importance of trees in our watershed and to encourage "Tree Tenders" to form groups and to work on increasing tree coverage in our parks and neighborhoods. PHS is also supporting this effort with their "Plant 1 Million Trees" project.

* **Watershed/flooding Ad Hoc Committee** met today and completed the research from the four adopted township plans --The EAC's Watershed Ad Hoc Committee offered to examine 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) as well as township maps in order to identify site-specific projects for stormwater BMP recommendations. The document needs to be finalized in order to submit with the March EAC minutes.

***2012 Cheltenham Community Earth Day Festival – Saturday April 28th at Cedarbrook Middle School. Next planning meeting is March 28th at Cedarbrook MS at 7pm**

***2012 Cheltenham Community Earth Day Projects—Saturday, April 21st**
See attached list—There are 10 groups planning projects. (List attached)

* **Mural Arts Project- Tuesday March 27th at 6:30 at Glenside Hall.**

* **Wednesday March 7th**- David McVeigh-Shultz met with Julie Slavet, Director of TTFW Partnership and discussed upcoming watershed educational projects and the EAC's role in helping with these forums. We also asked for ideas to reach out to upper reach township professionals, including engineers, to present a workshop or round table discussion on stormwater issues and Act 167 Plans.

***TTFWP on March 8th** worked with Arcadia students to mark storm drain in the Wyncote and Glenside neighborhoods.

* Miriam Moss wished to ask the township about the survey distributed via email to Township residents on stormwater issues-- where will results be posted and suggested that they be used for additional watershed education.

***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 on-hold, until after Earth Day projects and festival.

Submitted by Barbara Duffy



Cheltenham Environmental Advisory Council's (EAC) Watershed Committee's Task:
Re-examination of Existing Township Adopted Plans relating to Stormwater Issues

The EAC's Watershed Ad Hoc Committee offered to closely examine 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 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.

General Recommendations

We strongly recommend that any flood mitigation effort be **watershed based**, and we join with the TTF Watershed Partnership Inc. to recommend that the Township "seek the input and assistance of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, Philadelphia Water Department's Stream Restoration Team and the Pennsylvania Environmental Council to identify measures and projects that would best mitigate flooding while restoring the creek" (TTF letter, January 31, 2012).

Our recommendations below describe the preferred Stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs) with regard to flood mitigation and are supported by the four township adopted plans listed above. The BMP definitions listed below are adopted from the **PA Stormwater Best Management Practices Manual**.

Stormwater Best Management Practices

Porous Paving: A pervious pavement bed consists of a pervious surface course underlain by a stone bed of uniformly graded and clean-washed coarse aggregate, with a void space of at least 40%. The pervious pavement may consist of pervious asphalt, pervious concrete, or pervious pavement units. Stormwater drains through the surface, is temporarily held in the voids of the stone bed, and then slowly drains into the underlying, uncompacted soil mantle.

Site Specific Recommendations for Porous Paving:	TCWMP	TTF In P	OSP	167 P	Funding	Need for SALDO Changes	
All Township Buildings Parking lots stalls	X	X		X	Gradual w/ maintenance		
All parking stalls in public parks & Curtis Arboretum	X	X		X	Grant \$ DCNR		
School building parking stalls and sidewalks	X	X		X	w/ new renovations		
Newly developed properties- sidewalks & parking stalls (Residential & Business)	X	X		X	Developers given incentives	yes	
Renovated parking areas and sidewalks in business districts	X	X		X	Grant \$		
Renovated and newly built median strips	X	X		X	Penn DOT	Need to work with Penn DOT	
Sidewalks, patios and driveways in residential renovations (Voluntarily)				X	Resident	no	
At the end of residential and businesses driveways- 3 feet strip of porous pavers.					Resident voluntary		Idea added by EAC
All new ADA curb cuts (redesign curb cuts to use porous pavers or cement)							Idea added by EAC
Glenside Hall parking half circle					Grant \$		Idea added by EAC

Infiltration Basins: Infiltration Basins are shallow, impounded areas designed to temporarily store and infiltrate stormwater runoff. The size and shape can vary from one large basin to multiple, smaller basins throughout a site. Ideally, the basin should avoid disturbance of existing vegetation.

Site Specific Recommendations for Infiltration Basins:	TCWMP	TTF In P	OSP	167 P	Funding	Need for SALDO Changes
Moss Rehab Elkins Park	X	X		X		
Elkins Estate	X	X		X		
Median Strips along Old York Road	X	X	X	X	Non profits along 611	
Newly developed properties- (Residential & Business)	X	X		X		yes

Rain Gardens/Bioretenion: Bioretention is a method of treating stormwater by pooling water on the surface and allowing filtering and settling of suspended solids and sediment at the mulch layer, prior to entering the plant/soil/microbe complex media for infiltration and pollutant removal.

Site Specific Recommendations for Rain Gardens/Bioretenion:	TCWMP	TTF In P	OSP	167 P	Funding	Need for SALDO Changes
Next to some Township Buildings downspouts Admin Bldg, La Mott CC, Wall House, Police Bldg	X	X		X	grants	no
School buildings downspouts School Admin Bldg	X	X		X		no
Newly developed properties- small gardens next to downspouts (Residential & Business)	X	X		X	Developer given SW incentives	yes
Religious Institutions along Old York Road	X	X		X		no
Arcadia University	X	X		X		no
Residential homes (Voluntarily)	X	X		X		no
Rock Lane Park	X	X		X	grant	
Cement islands converted to capture water at many intersections- New Second & Ashbourne, Church Rd& Old York Spur, New Second & Church, Township Line & Church					grant	

Vegetated Swale: Vegetated swales are broad, shallow channels designed to slow runoff, promote infiltration, and filter pollutants and sediments in the process of conveying runoff. Preferably vegetated with appropriate native plants, shrubs and trees.

Site Specific Recommendations for vegetated swales:	TCWMP	TTF In P	OSP	167 P	Funding	Need for SALDO Changes
Along Tookany Creek Parkway between road and path	X	X		X	grant	no
Next to School buildings parking lots School Admin Bldg, all new schools	X	X		X	Include in cost of	no

Newly developed properties- next to parking lots, cut outs between parking areas or curb side (Residential & Business)	X	X		X	new bldg Include in cost of new bldg	yes
Religious Institutions along Old York Road	X	X		X	With improve	no
Arcadia University along 309/Easton Road	X	X		X		no
Residential homes (Voluntarily)	X	X		X		no
Large Commercial Properties such as Cheltenham and Cedarbrook Mall- could add more tree islands or tree trenches.	X	X		X	Property Owner to get SW credit	
Other Parks should be assesses for areas near sidewalks or road ways (Curtis Arboretum)					grants	no

Vegetated Roof: Extensive vegetated roof covers are usually 6 inches or less in depth and are typically intended to achieve a specific environmental benefit, such as rainfall runoff mitigation. (Vegetated roof covers that are 10 inches, or deeper, are referred to as 'intensive' vegetated roof covers.)

Site Specific Recommendations for vegetated roof:	TCWMP	TTF In P	OSP	167 P	Funding	Need for permit
School buildings, especially new buildings School Admin Bldg, all new schools	X	X		X	for SW Credit	
Newly developed properties- (Residential & Business)	X	X		X	Devs for SW Credit	
Moss Rehab Elkins Park	X	X		X	for SW Credit	yes
Portions of Commercial Buildings at Cheltenham and Cedarbrook Malls					for SW Credit	yes

Wet Pond/Retention Basin: Wet Detention Ponds are stormwater basins that include a permanent pool for water quality treatment and additional capacity above the permanent pool for temporary storage. The pond perimeter should generally be covered by a dense stand of emergent wetland vegetation. WPs require an adequate source of inflow to maintain the permanent water surface.

Site Specific Recommendations for Wet Pond/Retention Basin:	TCWMP	TTF In P	OSP	167 P	Funding	Need for SALDO Changes
Moss Rehab Elkins Park	X	X				
Elkins Estate	X	X				
Curtis Arboretum	X	X			grants	
Wyngate Development					Property Developer	
Businesses at North and Paxson Avenues (Purchase properties and convert to natural basin.)	X	X	X	X	FEMA	
Rock Lane Park					grants	
Robinson Park					grants	
Coventry Park	X	X		X	grants	

Parkview Park	X	X			grants	
Grove Park	X	X			grants	
Perry Bird Sanctuary along Glenside Ave.	X	X			grants	
Ashbourne CC Property	X	X	X		Property Developer	
Holy Sepulchre Cemetery	X	X				

Riparian Buffer Restoration: a riparian buffer is an area of trees and shrubs located adjacent to streams, lakes, ponds, and wetlands. Riparian buffers are scientifically proven to provide a number of economic and environmental values. Buffers reduce flood water speed.

Site Specific Recommendations for Riparian Buffer Restoration:	TCWMP	TTF In P	OSP	167 P	Funding	Need for ordinance Change
Tookany Creek Parkway	X	X		X	Grant \$	Riparian Buff Ordinance
Ralph Morgan Park	X	X		X	Grant \$	Riparian Buff Ordinance
Renninger Park	X	X		X	Grant \$	Riparian Buff Ordinance
Grove Park	X	X		X	Grant \$	Riparian Buff Ordinance
Holy Sepulchre Cemetery	X	X		X	Grant \$	Riparian Buff Ordinance
Arcadia University (near Church & Waverly Rds)	X	X		X	Grant \$	Riparian Buff Ordinance
Perley Bird Sanctuary	X	X		X	Grant \$	Riparian Buff Ordinance
All homes along the stream	X	X		X	Resident	Riparian Buff Ordinance
Rock Lane Park	X	X		X	Grant \$	Riparian Buff Ordinance
Curtis Arboretum	X	X		X	Grant \$	Riparian Buff Ordinance
Large private properties- Elkins Estate, Ashbourne, AJ Synagogue, Melrose CC						Riparian Buffer Ordinance

Landscape Restoration: Landscape restoration includes the restoration of forests or wooded areas, meadow restoration/creation and conversion of turf lawns to planted areas. Natives are used to provide the most absorption of stormwater.

Site Specific Recommendations for Landscape Restoration:	TCWMP	TTF In P	OSP	167 P	Funding	Need for SALDO Changes	Adopt Tree & Native Plant Ordinance to support
Tookany Creek Parkway- more trees & shrubs	X	X		X	Grant \$		X
High School Park- Meadow	X	X		X	Grant \$		X
309 Corridor - Shrubs, grasses & trees	X	X		X	Penn DOT Arcadia U		X
Moss Rehab Elkins Park- meadow &/or trees	X	X		X	Grant \$		X
Cheltenham Village, Glenside & Melrose Park Neighborhoods, Malls, business districts (Increase Street Tree cover)	X	X	X	X	Grant \$, malls owners, business org.		X
Perley Bird Sanctuary along Glenside Avenue	X	X	X	X	Grant \$		X
Home with sprawling lawns	X	X		X	Resident	no	X
Parts of Curtis Arboretum- more trees	X	X		X	Grant \$		X

Coventry Park- more trees					Grant \$		X
Robinson Park- meadow areas & tree cover					Grant \$		X
Westminster Seminary							X
Large private properties- Elkins Estate, Ashbourne, etc.							X

Floodplain Reclamation: Purchasing properties within the floodplain that consistently flood and have substantial damage during past high water events. Return to native woodland, meadow or wet pond to be determined by site condition after building removal.

Site Specific Recommendations for Floodplain Reclamation:	TCWMP	TTF In P	OSP	167 P	Funding	Need for Zoning Changes
Brookdale Avenue, Glenside- residential properties	X		X		FEMA	yes
Shoemaker and Mill Road, Elkins Park- residential properties	X		X		FEMA	yes
Church Road – residential property	X		X		FEMA	yes
North and Paxson Avenues- commercial properties	X	X	X	X	FEMA	yes
Property/parking lot at Glenside & Rices Mill Road	X		X		FEMA	yes
Biello Tract			X		FEMA	yes

Regional Planning: Work closely with other headwater municipalities in order to be proactive in planning around stormwater issues.

Site Specific Concerns:	Riparian Buffer Restoration	Bio-retention, bio swales &/or wet pond	Do Not Support Culvert/piping Changes	Landscape Restoration		
Baeder Creek- near Baeder & Wanamaker Roads	X	X	X	X		
Abington HS and School Admin Bldg	X	X		X		
Jenkintown stormwater projects			X	X		
Abington Country Club	X	X		X		
Burholme Creek/ Fox Chase Cancer Center addition	X	X	X	X		
Any Abington, Jenkintown large projects effecting downstream neighbor (Cheltenham)			X			



EAC Communications Committee Report March 19, 2012

One EAC Newsletter was sent, March 14, 2012.

Support was given for the written watershed recommendations to the Commissioners.

The Website upgrading was discussed a bit, with a couple of emails exchanged.

Goals for this month: Send a newsletter about a week after the EAC meeting. Discuss/plan an ad hoc Communications meeting to set goals and direction for the committee.

Submitted:

Dottie Baumgarten



EAC Page 1

Who We Are

The Cheltenham Environmental Advisory Committee aspires to assist the township Commissioners and citizens in stimulating a natural 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 evolve into a community where:

- Energy demands are met by conservation and clean renewable sources (solar, wind, and geothermal). ([link to Building Green](#))
- Waterways are biologically thriving and structurally sound. ([link to Our Green Habitat](#))
- Mobility is maximized by a clean, diverse transport system (rail, buses, walking, biking, electric car sharing). ([link to Living Green/mobility](#))
- Goods and services, as much as possible are produced locally by way of reuse/recycle infrastructure and processes. ([link to Living Green/eating](#))
- Neighborhoods, public green spaces and businesses are inviting, inclusive and beautiful." ([link to Green Civics](#))

Our Partners

The EAC works closely with our partners to ensure that our environmental policies reflect the needs of our community.

Transition Cheltenham is a group of neighbors intent on building a strong, healthy, sustainable community using renewable, non-polluting resources. (<http://transitioncheltenham.org/About/index.htm>)

Cheltenham Chamber of Citizens (CCC) is a membership-based, nonprofit organization whose mission is to promote, maintain and enhance the quality of life of its members and the Township of Cheltenham residents. (<http://www.cheltenhamchamberofcitizens.com/>)

Floodside is a Facebook group  meant to share the images and experiences of Cheltenham Township residents who have been affected by the recent floods. (<http://www.floodside.com>)

Tookany/Tacony-Frankford Watershed Partnership, Inc... (<http://ttfwatershed.org/>)

Friends of High School Park . . (<http://www.highschoolpark.org/>)

StormwaterPA... (<http://www.stormwaterpa.org/>)

EAC Individual SubPages

Green Buildings

The Building Committee organized a successful home-efficiency series on topics like "Lowering Your Carbon Footprint," "Solar Thermal Energy for Homeowners" and "Geothermal for Your Home." It also helped the Township secure a free, professional energy audit of several Township buildings to prioritize target projects for the federal Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant.

The committee also meets with the Township Engineer to brainstorm ideas for water conservation and educational outreach to local building professionals. Cheltenham is committed to greening its building codes and landscape and stormwater ordinances.

Finally, the Building Committee also partnered with parent-teacher organizations to spearhead a recycling plan for the entire School District. The Township has been a leader in recycling for more than two decades.

Energy Committee

Living comfortably while reducing the carbon footprint is the goal of the Energy Committee. It has teamed with **Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.**, an organization that encourages folks to walk, bike and use public transportation instead of drive and promotes the localizing of food with home and community gardens and/or shopping at locally grown farmers markets, which also supports the local economy. Transition Towns periodically hosts free educational events in the community.

The Energy Committee also works with **Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.**, which hosts a free, on-line service where residents can monitor their electric, gas, and water usage and receive customized tips on how to save. A rewards program also provides discounts and promotional opportunities to residents who conserve energy and water.

Our Green Habitat

Watershed Committee

Clean water, streambank restoration, native plants, rain gardens and rain barrels are just a few of the goals of the Watershed Committee. Guided by the Tookany Creek Watershed Management Plan adopted in 2003, the committee works closely with Tookany/Tacony-Frankford (TTF) Watershed Partnership, Inc.

Restoring streambanks plays an important role in improving water quality in the Tookany Creek. Planting native trees and shrubs on private property adds value, while improving air, water and soil quality and reducing stormwater runoff. (Call 811 before digging.) Recent flooding demonstrates how detrimental stormwater runoff can be.

Simple water conservation can also help decrease flow rates in the Township's sanitary sewage system. Find tips on water conservation at **Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.**

Parks

Native species: Plant lists- Backyard, Lawn, Invasives to avoid.

Converting lawn to meadow

Tree Planting

America In Bloom (Contact: Jonathan Essoka)

Watershed Ad Hoc Committee (Barb Duffy)

Meeting Minutes

Recommendations on Short Term Flooding Mitigation

Living Green

Transportation and Communication

Transportation is a key component to sustainability. The Transportation Committee promotes the use of public trains and buses and encourages more walkable/bikeable neighborhoods and trails. The committee welcomes feedback on how the Township can better promote biking and walking in the community. The committee is also closely following developments in SEPTA's proposed Jenkintown/Wyncote Train Station Improvement Project.

Email alerts and eNewsletters keep EAC supporters list up to date on environmental news thanks to the Communications Committee. To receive these emails, sign up online or at one of the EAC events

Farmers Markets

Gardening

Food Co-op: CreekSide Co-Op

Community Gardens (America in Bloom)

Getting around Green

Walking

Biking

Septa

Green Civics

EAC- minutes

Leaf pick up schedule

Township Cleanups

Recycling

Applicable township ordinances with Environmental Impacts

Stormwater

Sustainability plan- information and updates



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

