

The regular meeting of the Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) was held tonight. Voting members present were: Dottie Baumgarten, Barbara Duffy, Jonathan Essoka, Deb Forman, David McVeigh-Schultz, and Lorna Rosenberg. Ex-officio member: Sandra Cohen was present. Tom McHugh was present. Guest: Gina Craigo, Friends of High School Park. Staff present: Bryan T. Havir, Assistant Township Manager. (See attached attendance sheet).

1. ***Call to Order*** – Chairman Schultz called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.
2. ***Acceptance of Meeting Minutes*** –Mr. Essoka made a motion to accept the April 16, 2012 meeting minutes as submitted; seconded by Ms. Duffy. The motion was unanimously approved.
3. ***Committee Reports*** -

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

Discussion continued on the following items:

- Mr. Havir noted that the Riparian Corridor Conservation District Ordinance review may be scheduled for the June Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting. A Public Hearing could be scheduled as early as September or October. This will provide time to send out notices for one or two series of public educational meetings over the summer to approximately 900 property owners to explain the Ordinance. Mr. Havir suggested the EAC reach out to TTF and MCPC for assistance to educate the public and help facilitate any community meetings that are scheduled to discuss this draft ordinance.
- Ms. Duffy expressed concern about stormwater management for a proposed land development plan for a property on Fox Chase Road in Abington Township, located between two branches of the Jenkintown/Shoemaker tributaries of the Tookany Creek. Ms. Duffy made a motion to recommend that the EAC contact Mr. Lahaza at Abington Township about the plan; seconded by Mr. Essoka.
- Mr. Schultz reported that he attended the Doylestown Bux-Mont Annual Summit on May 17, 2012 and learned about the Abington Township Head Waters Tree Planting Project, as well as a Tree Planting at High School Park through PHS's Tree Vitalize grant program.

B. ***Transportation Committee*** – Ms. Chadwick was not present to give her report.

C. Building Report – Ms. Rosenberg presented her written report (See attached).

Discussion continued on:

- Development on a long term community-based strategic plan with resident input on sustainable School District facilities and sustainable capital improvements. Mr. Havir suggested a collaborative effort among from volunteers on the EDTF and the EAC. Ms. Rosenberg noted that she could work on developing a joint statement with David Cohen, EDTF Chair, on construction; maintenance and operation, monitoring using Energy Star Performance criteria as an example. Mr. Schultz made a motion to recommend that a joint report from the EDTF and EAC be written and submitted to the Board of Commissioners for its authorization to send to the School District regarding the need to prepare a community-based strategic plan with a focus on sustainable development, implementation of sustainable land-use practices, BMP's and financial needs effecting School District buildings; seconded by Ms. Rosenberg and unanimously approved.

Mr. Schultz reviewed his written report, Recommendation of Methods to Implement and Monitor Automated Single Stream Recycling. (See Attached). He also noted citizen and community concern about communications regarding automated single stream recycling.

- Ms. Rosenberg stated that the Township could work with the School District on a program for educating residents via flyers and start outreach through the School District in the fall.
- The Township should look to advertise in the calendar, press releases, newsletter, and channel 42. Mr. Havir noted that this was already planned.
- Mr. Essoka added that this be taken to the Sustainability Committee with the broader view of recycling. Outreach should be done by the Public Information Office with municipal department heads developing and sharing information. Discussion ensued concerning a recommendation of having key Township personnel discuss recycling operations, BMP's and action items, perhaps at the next Sustainability Committee Meeting. Mr. Havir reported the consultant team recently met with the Township Staff to interview them on the current municipal operation and gave them a tour of the Township's facilities, including the Public Services Facility.
- Mr. Schultz noted that the EAC has been asked to serve as implementation advisor when the Sustainability Plan is complete.

Mr. Schultz reviewed his written report, Recommendation Regarding a Provision of the Age Restricted Zoning Overlay District (See attached).

D. Communications Committee – Ms. Baumgarten presented a written report which was distributed and reviewed at the meeting. (See attached).

Ms. Forman noted that Ms. Gibson reviewed changes for the web page and requested to see entire layout before the actual changes are made to the current content on the website. Group leaders should review and comment individually.

E. Energy Committee – Mr. McHugh was asked by Mr. Schultz to find out if PECO can reduce their tap fee charge per streetlight, if the Township reduces from a high pressure sodium light to a more energy efficient luminary. Mr. McHugh stated that LED lights (25-50 watts) are brighter and provide safer conditions from a public safety perspective than high pressure sodium (HPS) pink lights (85-250 watts) which negatively affect peripheral vision. Further discussion points included: price per kWh per pole; an opportunity of not paying tap fees on approximately 2,959 lights. It was noted that tap fees are regulated by the PUC; the Township would need to accept responsibility for all underground wiring; however, PECO is not eager to transfer ownership of underground wiring to the municipalities. Mr. Schultz asked for copies of a typical bill for the Township for its street lights and traffic lights. Mr. Havir noted that the Township electrical consultant conducted a cost ratio analysis on replacing the sodium lights with LED bulbs in all the street lights and found that a break even payback would take about 47.5 years at current pricing. The initial investment to convert from HPS to LED in all the street lights would cost about \$2 million based on today's prices.

Mr. McHugh again noted that the glut of natural gas in the market place prevents the development of solar and other energy conservation resources.

4. Old Business:

A. *Sustainability Plan Development* – Ms. Rosenberg reported that there were no May meetings and that the next Steering Committee meeting will be held at the Township Administration Building on Tuesday, June 12, 2012 and the next General Committee Meeting will be held at Curtis Hall on Thursday, June 21, 2012. Mr. Havir reiterated that two Community Planners, consultants for the Cheltenham Township Sustainability Plan from the Montgomery County Planning Commission recently met with Township Department Heads to discuss municipal facilities operations in Cheltenham in various departments. The information will be added to the Township Administration portion of the Sustainability Plan.

B. *America in Bloom (AIB) Evaluation Report* – Mr. Essoka presented his written report (See attached). He reviewed points discussed several meetings ago about improving community. He addressed 1) Tidiness; 2) Landscaping and Community Involvement such as community garden clubs. A garden club summit was suggested to share common information and create organization between gardening groups and to coordinate efforts with the Township. Garden Club names could be obtained from EAC website. Mr. Schultz talked about Transition Towns Gardening efforts. Discussion led to promoting tours, contests, garden groups as well as stormwater controls to reduce impervious surface; 3) Heritage Promotion was also mentioned. For example, in the La Mott Historic District, it was suggested partnering with the La Mott Civic Association and the Township Historical Commission to develop identification and way-finding signage for the historic areas. Mr. Havir reported that identification signage was just reviewed by the La Mott BHAR members for the Historic District to be installed on street signs. Discussion continued regarding the benefits of forming Tree Tender Groups for the various neighborhoods in the Township.

Mr. Schultz inquired about the Phase II DCNR Phase II High School Park Edge Community Planting Project and the DCNR Curtis Arboretum Conservation and Landscape Management Plan and if there was money in the Capital Budget for Mary Meyers, Temple University Sustainable Design, to undertake a class studio this fall along the lower Rock Creek portion of the Arboretum.

5. *New Business* - Friends of High School Park Presentation.

Ms. Gina Craig, Operations Manager, fundraising and event planner provided an update on the project and scope of work that was recently funded under the \$5,000 WREN grant awarded to FHSP for an educational outreach to the community project called "We All Live Downstream" modeled after the Abington Township EAC program. Ms. Craig described plans for four public educational sessions; two in the spring and two in the fall: Green Law; Tree Benefits; Living Streamside and Rain Barrels and asked the EAC for their support in conducting outreach to streamside property owners regarding watershed issues. Ms. Craig would also like to have at least one EAC representative at each of the educational sessions and also requested a member of the Board of Commissioners at these sessions. She noted she will attend the mandatory training in Carlisle, PA on June 12-13, 2012.

Ms. Rosenberg added that the School District could be helpful in getting the information out to parents via assembly talks for children to engage students to bring a parent. Plan to follow up on rain barrel installations through mentoring. Deb Forman mentioned the use of a map depicting where all the rain barrels throughout Cheltenham Township were installed. This was prepared several years ago by PADEP. Mr. Schultz noted that Glenside Free Library recently installed a rain barrel. Ms. Craig provided flyers for Arts in the Park (AIP) on June 3, 2012 from 10-5 p.m. Discussion ensued about EAC having a table at AIP or having materials on Stormwater Best Management Practices, etc. displayed at the community booth or at the EDTF table.

6. Announcements

- Ribbon Cutting at Glenside Elementary School scheduled for May 24, 2012 at 2:30 p.m.
- TTFWP - Watershed Milestone Award Ceremony & Reception on May 31 at Fairmount Water Works Interpretive Center in Philadelphia 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.
- MCLT Green Futures Workshop and Dinner scheduled for May 31, 2012, 4-8:30 p.m.
- PEC 42nd Annual Dinner held at the Wanamaker's Crystal Room on June 6, 2012.
- PHS Workshop – June 13, 2012, 6:00 p.m. at Glenside Hall for Township officials to discuss program for tree planting projects.
- DEP Environmental Education and Information Center, Alternative Energy Educator's Workshop on July 18, 2012 at the Harrisburg Area Community Center.

7. Adjournment – Mr. Schultz made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Ms. Forman.

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



David G. Kraynik,
Township Manager

Submitted by:
Kathryn McDevitt

Watershed Committee Report: EAC Meeting May 21, 2012

- * **Watershed/flooding Ad Hoc Committee** completed the research on the four adopted Township plans --The EAC's Watershed Ad Hoc Committee had 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 watershed BMP projects for recommendation. The report was attached to March's EAC meeting minutes. No comments were made by the Public Works Committee at their 4/11/12 and the status of this report is unknown to the EAC Watershed Committee.
- ***2012 Cheltenham Community Earth Day Festival was Saturday April 28th at Cedarbrook Middle School.** Weather was unpredictable so we had the event inside. Overall we had a steady flow of people. We had many votes for the Mural Arts project and a few folks signed up to paint. We also had several people sign up for our EAC email list.
- ***2012 Cheltenham Community Earth Day Projects—Saturday, April 21st (See attached report.)**
- ***Riparian Corridor Conservation District Ordinance** was reviewed by the Parks & Recreation committee Wednesday, 4/11. There were some suggestions to cleanup some of the language in the draft and then it was recommended to be passed on.
- * **Mural Arts Project- the painting will start Saturday, June 2nd and if rain on Saturday June 9th.** Funds are still being solicited for the paint and supplies. We do have scaffolding donated and local businesses are putting out fundraising cans in the stores. Abington Twp. Has opened an account so people can write checks. Last report from Jennifer Sherwood there is about \$250 in donations so far. People are encouraged to go to a Facebook page "Friends of Keswick Avenue Underpass" to sign up for a time slot to help paint.
- ***TTFWP & EAC-** are working together to create a watershed education program that will be an outreach to the community to learn how they can help with water quality as well as decreasing stormwater's effects on our streams. Topics will also cover the role stormwater plays in flooding in our neighborhoods and how BMPs can help. We continue to work on a list of community groups to give to TTF to contact about participating in this watershed education program.
- *TTF Partnership is having an official ribbon cutting for the **Glenside Elementary School Riparian Buffer!** The plants are growing and this is a great time to visit the riparian buffer! The ceremony is scheduled for **Thursday, May 24 at 2:30 pm at Glenside Elementary School.** This is immediately following the Science Fair scheduled for that day. There will be a brief program and ribbon cutting, which will include representatives from TTF, the Cheltenham School District, and the Cheltenham EAC.

To provide some background, in spring 2009, TTF and partners replaced 10,000 square feet of lawn behind the school with native trees, shrubs, and grasses. These plantings provide a much needed riparian buffer between the massive school lawn and the creek. This buffer helps to improve the health of the creek while providing students with hands-on learning opportunities about watershed ecology and protection. Native plants help absorb stormwater; slow water during flooding; prevent erosion of the creek's banks; and keep fertilizers, salt, trash, and other pollutants out of the creek.

Recently, an interpretive sign and seating for students were installed, creating an outdoor classroom. The project has been certified by the Audubon Society as a Native Bird Habitat and received a Community Greening Award from the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society.
- * **May 31st from 5:30 to 7:30pm** TTF Partnership will be having their **Watershed Milestones Award Ceremony & Reception** at the Fairmount Water Works Interpretive Center, 640 Waterworks Drive, Philadelphia, PA 19130.
- * **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**" will be worked on over the summer.

Submitted by Barbara Duffy

Note:

Need someone to attend Glenside Ribbon cutting.

Also do we wish to have an EAC Table at the "Arts in the Park" event?

Bryan and I will be attending the TTF Award ceremony – anyone else?

Cheltenham Township's Earth Day Projects Report 2012

Saturday, April 21st (unless otherwise noted)

Neighborhood, club and community groups celebrated our Earth by hosting projects at various locations throughout the Township.

Tookany Creek Parkway Cleanup

Activity: Cleanup the Parkway at the WAR MEMORIAL & Surrounding area

Contact: Carol Chamberlain 215-635-0295

Sponsoring Group: CHELTENHAM - ROCKLEDGE ROTARY & THE ELKINS PARK ROTARY

Number of Volunteers: 10 Rotary Club members and 14 Cub Scouts from Pack 38

Cresheim Trail (Proposed Laverock section)

Activity: Cleanup and nature walk

Contact: Jim Innes 267-481-1461

Number of Volunteers: ??

La Mott Community Gardens

Activity: Cleanup and flower planting

Contact: Diane Williams dcbmwilliams@msn.com

Sponsoring Group: La Mott Community Garden Group

Number of Volunteers: 20+

High School Park

Activity: Cleanup and trail work near the creek

Contact: Diana K. Weiner 215-782-8082 or info@fshp.org

Sponsoring Group: Friends of High School Park

Number of Volunteers: 4

Grove Park (Sunday April 22nd **)**

Activity: Cleanup and children's activities

Contact: Dottie Baumgarten 215-870-5650

Sponsoring Group: Friends of Grove Park

Number of Volunteers: Postponed due to rain

Edward Drach Memorial Scout Cabin

Activity: Trail maintenance & cabin area cleanup

Contact: Dave Jennis 215-379-8592

Sponsoring Group: Boy Scout Troop #22 & Girl Scout Troop #7307

Number of Volunteers: Cancelled

Keswick Underpass

Activity: cleanup and planting

Contact: June Parkinson 215-886-4746

Sponsor: Abington and Cheltenham neighbors

Number of Volunteers: 27

Melrose Park Train station

Activity: flowerbed cleanup

Contact: Riki Lent rsimone49@aol.com

Sponsoring Group: Melrose Park Neighborhood Association

Number of Volunteers: 5

Rowland Community Center

Activity: Cleanup & flower planting

Contact: Pru Rebitz 215-379-2233

Sponsoring Group: Girl Scout Troops #7325 & #759
Number of Volunteers: postponed

Ralph Morgan Park

Activity: Trash Cleanup

Sponsoring Group: Friends of Ralph Morgan Park

Number of Volunteers: 4

Wall Park

Activity: Cleanup

Contact: Linda

Sponsoring Group: Glenside United Church of Christ

Number of Volunteers:??

TOTAL VOLUNTEERS: 84+

Buildings Committee Report Addendum – May 2012

I. Advising the School District Facilities Committee

A. Long Term Agenda of the Committee:

Planning Demolition and/or Reconstruction of ALL of Cheltenham Township's substandard schools

1. A Gilbert Architects study showed that Cheltenham, Glenside and Wyncote school buildings were sub-standard, with Elkins Park not being far behind in scoring.
2. In a separate evaluation of building problems and their solutions at Cedarbrook Middle School, it was estimated that at least \$10 million would be needed for renovation of the roof, mold abatement, and HVAC, etc.) In a preliminary decision to demolish and rebuild the school, key issues were:
 - a main wall is probably compromised by the water infiltration;
 - lack of ADA accessibility;
 - if the existing building was renovated, that would have some remaining configuration issues;
 - The state provides additional financial incentives for new construction v.s renovation and some believe that new building valuations are more valuable in collateralizing loans to the district.
3. It has already been agreed by the School Board that a new Cedarbrook building will be built tentatively starting in January 2014. The numbers of grades that will be housed at the new Cedarbrook Middle School (5-8 or 6-8) have not yet been resolved.
4. The future of the Elkins Park School has not been determined. It could either be 1.) renovated; 2.) demolished with a new building built on the site; 3.) demolished with a new elementary building constructed on the Cedarbrook site, alongside a new Cedarbrook Middle School; 4.) demolished with reconfiguration of all remaining elementary schools sending 5th graders to Cedarbrook and absorbing all other Elkins Park students; or 5.) demolished with a new elementary school built on the Elkins Park School site.

B. Decisions Currently Under Consideration by the Committee

1. Wyncote School Architectural Plan

- a. Issues: Minimize creation of impervious surface
 - The amount of parking, and;
 - The size of footprint of building based upon 2 or 3 story structure.
- b. Actions:
 - Collaboration: Economic Development Task Force & Planning Commission leader David Cohen
 - Support: PTO group appeal for expanded pervious and green play space and less parking
- c. Next Steps:
 - Board members did not want to agree to any actions that suggested their preference for a two story building or for expanded parking beyond the initial proposals in plans 1 and 2.
 - The architect firm pledged to meet with parents and teachers at the school prior to the next meeting.

d. Township Administration Building

- Administration is not leasing space at the Fox Pavilion due to timing concerns about renovation of that property for school use, which would force the school district to move in the middle of the school year;
- Needs were expressed and a goal was set to develop a long term relocation plan for a new long term facility in the Township and to plan for three year occupancy in a new leased facility or the current one.
- Concerns were raised by Dr. Bavi and others about the viability of the systems (roof, electrical, heating, etc.) in the current administration building, and whether these systems could last at least three years (the time required for construction of a permanent facility) without requiring emergency replacement and evacuation of this building for 1-3 months.
- Dr. Bavi was assigned to estimate the likelihood and cost of emergency system repairs, and to report back to the committee.

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RECOMMENDATION OF METHODS TO IMPLEMENT AND MONITOR AUTOMATED SINGLE STREAM RECYCLING

MAINTAIN AND INCREASE OUR CAPACITY TO AVOID MATERIAL BREAKAGE AND CONTAMINATION

1. Retrofit collection trucks to reduce glass breakage.
 - Nationally, glass breakage in single stream collection systems reduces glass recycling by an average of 60% and this broken glass often contaminates paper, making it difficult for manufacturers to recycle it.
 - The Public Works Department has already adjusted truck bin compaction pressure by 25% in order to reduce glass crushing, and reports that trucks a filled with recyclable materials to more than half their maximum capacity.
 - In addition, they should retrofit compactor blades to accommodate the accumulation of paper on the metal floor of the collection bin in order to pad its impact with glass that is deposited there.
2. Employ new methods to maintain contamination enforcement with smaller collection crews.
 - Outfit driver mirror systems to view recycled material collected on both sides of the truck (now the new plan will equip trucks for dual sided auto-collection).
 - Train and direct drivers to monitor and act upon the contamination of recycled material through continual use of the mirror system, non-collection of containers with contaminated material, and notification of the recycling supervisor of the address of the contaminated material to enable the placement of a written citation on the rejected container.

MEASURE COLLECTIONS EFFECTIVENESS

1. Selling our recyclable material on the open market would provide the Township a financial incentive to maintain the highest possible recycling standards. The following factors work against the township monitoring, maintaining, and selling high quality recyclable material.
 - The Township is a member of a Township Consortium that contracts with a recycling processor to sort and market its recycled material.
 - This contract commits all Consortium members to accept a single unit price (\$12 per ton) for recycled material, regardless of the purity of the material or the collection method employed by any township.
 - The processor is not obligated to report the price for which they are paid to deliver sorted recyclable products to factories, or that amounts of product that are recycled and discarded.
 - The company processing our recycled material apparently does not measure or report to the Township Consortium the amount or proportion of contaminated material that is either collected or observed in the sorting process, so the quality of our township's collection process can only be monitored internally.

2. As a result, the EAC Buildings Committee recommends that the Township:
 - Encourage the Township Consortium to consider changes to the contract with the recycling processor that would provide townships with information and financial incentive to improve the quality of their diverted waste stream, thereby enabling more of it to be recycled by manufacturers.
 - Measure, compare, and report the number of containers of contaminated recyclable material that are rejected, both before and after automation.

To date our Township's conversion to single stream recycling collection has not achieved any increase in its waste diversion, when the first quarter of 2011 and the first quarter of 2012 are compared. The California Department of Conservation commissioned a study in 2007 that stated, "Increased amount of recyclables collected often initially double from the previous rate, although often eventually settle down to a 20-30 percent increase".

3. The EAC Buildings Committee recommends that the Township develop a plan to motivate greater resident participation in recycling, and continue to monitor and report changes in our waste diversion rate as follows:
 - Measure, compare, and report the tonnage of recycled materials collected before and after automation is implemented.
 - Measure and compare and report the total income from recycled goods before and after automation is implemented.

MEASURE PROMOTIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

National organizations advise that an effective communication campaign to inform and motivate township residents is essential to increasing resident participation and compliance with a single stream recycling program. They have recommended the following evaluation the campaign effectiveness.

1. How many messages were created and disseminated in each medium? Were they targeted to the community sub-groups most likely to absorb information in those formats? Are there other formats that could reach parts of the community more directly?
2. How many households did the messages reach?
3. How many times was each household likely to hear or see the message(s) and in what combination of media?
4. How many tons of recovered materials were set out for collection before and after the message was delivered?
5. Is there a change in the contamination rate after information is distributed, both in the case of general media over a particular area and also with one-on-one tags providing feedback on individual set-outs?
6. Did more customers call in with questions or comments?
7. Did the collection company notice differences in customer service requests?
8. Did the messages work better with some segments of the population than with others? Why?

Recommendation Regarding a Provision of the Age Restricted Zoning Overlay District

By David McVeigh-Schultz

My oral statement at the last Board of Commissioners meeting questioned the current wording of Development Requirement section I-5: Energy Star Rating. The section states:

“All homes constructed under this overlay district shall meet the guidelines for Energy Star rating set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Third party verification by a certified Home Energy Rater or equivalent is required prior to occupancy of each home. ”

The insertion of the words “or equivalent” when coupled with the phrase “shall meet the guidelines for” create a large legal loophole through which, I believe, developers could avoid Energy Star certification and compliance to energy conservation provisions that require the performance of particular construction methods.

As a member of the Township’s Environmental Advisory Council’s Buildings Committee, which has advised the Township Engineer’s office regarding Energy Star certification, and as a former administrator of an agency that has served as a Home Energy Rater under an EPA accredited Provider for more than 5 years, I can state that:

- There is no valid equivalent to a Home Energy Provider organization that is accredited by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and its subcontracting Rater organizations. Inspection by a certified Home Energy Rating inspector and hired by an Energy Star accredited Provider organization is the only process by which a building can be certified by the U.S. EPA to have met the energy efficiency standards of Energy Star.
- Inspectors that are applying to become certified Home Energy Raters go through an apprenticeship that includes repeated observation and oversight of inspections by an accredited Home Energy Provider organization that takes months. Companies that employ certified Energy Raters may be designated by EPA as Energy Star Rater organizations.

I have verified rigorous accreditation process for Energy Star Providers and rigorous certification process for rating inspectors, (and the organizations that subcontract their services), by attaching a document that describes in detail the procedures for accrediting Energy Star Providers that has been developed and adopted by the Residential Energy Services Network (RESNET).

- The Energy Star Provider designation was developed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and a Provider is the only entity that can be used by builders to demonstrate compliance to the ENERGY STAR® Homes Program standard.
- The accreditation criteria are based upon the Mortgage Industry National Home Energy Rating System Accreditation Standard that was developed by a joint National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO)/RESNET Accreditation Task Force. The task force was comprised of representatives of state energy offices and operating statewide home energy rating programs.
- The standards for certification and recertification of Provider inspectors (subcontracted through Rater organizations), include the following provisions:
 1. Initial classroom and/or field training.

2. Performance evaluation of ability to perform accurate BOP inspections including passing the national RESNET test.
3. Continuing Education - 12 hours of education and training approved by the BOP provider during the three years of certification.
4. Recertification of BOP inspectors no less than every three years

I also want to state my agreement with the Montgomery County Planning Commission's written assessment in allay any possible fears that Energy Star rating involves any burdensome costs for builders.

- A study by that Vermont Energy Investment Corporation from March of 2007 states, "the raters fees are generally in the \$500-\$800 range depending on house size and complexity".
- This cost is minimal in comparison to its benefits. A 2011 EPA study of Energy Star certified home construction concluded that Energy Star certified homes saved home owners an average of \$443 per year on their utility bills compared to homes built under the 2006 EICC Home Energy Code.

America in Bloom (AIB) Recommendation Implementation Strategy
EAC Meeting - May 21, 2012
Jonathan D. Essoka

The AIB judges outlined several areas where the township could be improved. These included: tidiness, environmental effort, community involvement, heritage, urban forestry, landscaped areas, floral displays, and turf and ground cover. Most of their recommendations were standalone, but some areas had overlap with others. After looking at the AIB judges' suggestions and discussing the options during our June EAC meeting, I've developed a preliminary strategy to address some of the more pressing issues over the next year.

Tidiness

- Overview - Judges' emphasized: 1) Repairing small signs; 2) Curb repair; and 3) Sidewalk weed maintenance
- Potentially Responsible Parties - Cheltenham Township's Public Works Department
- Action Plan - Signs and sidewalks are typically maintained by property owners. However, it is unclear how repair and maintenance is prioritized or what it entails (level of effort, types of work being done). We should work with the existing neighborhood and gardening groups to create a strategy including the following:
 1. Approach Public Works Coordinator to discuss issue
 2. Conduct a baseline assessment to determine which sidewalks and signs require the most attention, structurally and functionally, and prioritize based on safety concerns
 3. Work with property owners to educate them on the administrative process and provide them with a list of concrete contractors so they can get quotes to determine the cost of improvements
 4. Prioritize improvement areas according to budget, amount of rehabilitation, visibility, pedestrian use
 5. Propose a system for implementing repairs and maintenance

Landscaping and Community Involvement

- Overview – Judges emphasized: 1) Private garden tours to raise funds, Landscape Awards, Community Garden Group
- Potentially Responsible Parties – Existing garden clubs, township organizations
- Action Plan – The targets for this plan represent only a portion of the judges' suggestions. Addressing them will bring about more results than addressing some of the judges' more focused recommendations. Essentially, Cheltenham should amplify and empower its gardening community to encourage more of our residents to beautify their properties (and perhaps install stormwater controls) through gardening and landscaping. The strategy could include the following:
 1. Plan a Community Garden Summit – The summit would bring together local garden clubs and interested organizations to discuss coordinating, consolidating and leveraging each other's efforts, incentivizing residential gardening, hosting private garden tours, creating a Landscaping Contest, raising funds, managing invasive and promoting native species

2. Educate interested garden groups on linking gardening with stormwater controls (rain gardens, tree planting, infiltration, etc.)

Heritage

- Overview – Judges were particularly interested in making La Mott's historical amenities more visible and available to both residents and visitors.
- Potentially Responsible Parties – Historical Commission, La Mott Neighborhood or Civic Associations
- Action Plan – To emphasize La Mott's history we should take advantage of its strong community identity and activism.
 1. Introduce AIB's suggestions to the Historical Commission
 2. Identify groups in La Mott interested in accentuating the area's history
 3. Discuss with stakeholders what historical amenities exist and how they could become more available to the public
 4. Collaboratively create an action plan for making Camp William Penn and other sites or landmarks more visible and accessible
 5. Propose concept to Township for potential funding and support
 6. Develop street markers to be installed on sign posts to designate the La Mott Historical District

EAC Communications Committee
May 21, 2012

Several EAC newsletters have been sent this past month. April 24's newsletter had articles on the Earthday Celebration, High School Park's Star Gazing, Tookany/Tacony-Frankford Watershed Partnership's Celebration on May 31, and Household Hazardous Waste Collection by Cheltenham and Montgomery County.

Early May's newsletter had articles on the May 19th Montgomery County Compost Bin and Rain Barrel Sale, Arts in the Park, TTF's article on the Riparian Buffer Ordinance for Cheltenham, and Cheltenham's Electronic Recycling Collection on May 19th.

A newsletter is ready to go this week. Current articles are on Keswick Avenue Mural, Arts in the Park, Watershed Milestone Awards Ceremony, LEED's Award for Myers Elementar, Lamott Garden Tour and Clean Water Tips.

Regards,

Dottie Baumgarten

Introductory Alternative Energy Educator's Workshop

Calling all Pennsylvania Teachers, Educators, Homeschoolers, Youth Group and Scout Leaders...

Join the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and its partners (Department of Education [PDE] and Fresco Green Building Supplies) for a free Introductory Alternative Energy Educator's Workshop to be held on the following date and location:

- **July 18, 2012** **Harrisburg Area Community College, Room 302, Lebanon** (*in partnership with Fresco Green Building Supplies*)

The workshop will be held from 8:30 – 4:00 p.m. Teachers will be eligible for 6.5 Act 48 credit hours. Workshop participants will learn about and explore alternative energy technologies through presentations, hands-on activities and a field trip to see alternative energy technology in action. This workshop is geared for upper elementary, middle and high school teachers and non-formal educators and is based upon Pennsylvania's Academic Standards for Environment and Ecology and Science and Technology. Educators will receive background information and standards-based curricular materials. Lunch and refreshments will be provided.

Alternative Energy Educator's Workshop Registration Form

Name: _____

Organization/School: _____

Home Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

County: _____

Phone (when school is not in session): _____

E-mail (when school is not in session): _____

Special needs? _____ Vegetarian meal preference? (Circle One) Yes No

Registration Deadline is Wednesday, June 27, 2012

Directions and the workshop agenda will be emailed with registration confirmation

Complete this form and send to:

Ann Devine
DEP Environmental Education and Information Center
RCSOB, 400 Market Street, P.O. Box 2063
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2063
Phone: 717-772-1644
Fax: 717-705-4093
E-mail: adevine@pa.gov