

The regular meeting of the Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) was held tonight. Members present were Dottie Baumgarten, Martin Carey, Barbara Duffy, Deb Forman, David McVeigh-Schultz, and Lorna Rosenberg. Other interested public in attendance was: Tom McHugh. Township liaison present was Nancy K. Gibson, Public Information Officer. (See attached attendance sheet.)

1. Call to Order – Chairman Schultz called the meeting to order at 7:38 p.m. Mr. Schultz introduced Martin Carey as a new voting member.

2. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes – Mr. Schultz asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Rosenberg made a motion to accept the August 20, 2012, minutes; seconded by Ms. Baumgarten. The motion was unanimously approved.

3. Committee Reports –

A. Energy Committee Report – Mr. McHugh presented his calculations on current energy prices for electric, natural gas and heating oil, as well as an article, “Natural Gas and Its Role in the U. S. Energy Endgame” by Kevin Doran and Adam Reed to the EAC members. Mr. McHugh stated the cost of natural gas is much cheaper than clean, renewable energy, so it will slow implementation of renewable energy. However, McHugh predicted that as more enterprises and vehicles convert to natural gas, the price will skyrocket. Mr. McHugh recommends using natural gas for heating but clean, renewable energy for electricity for home use. He would like to see the Township increase its use of clean renewable energy from 20 – 100%. Ms. Forman suggested that Mr. McHugh’s comparison would be useful on the website and recommended that the Board of Commissioners be educated on Mr. McHugh’s comparison. Discussion continued about the cost to convert from oil to natural gas and return on investment figures. Mr. Schultz would like to see some of the smaller Township buildings convert from oil to natural gas for heating as part

of the long term capital improvement plan. Mr. Schultz noted that there will be a Township Budget Workshop on October 2, 2012. Ms. Rosenberg asked if the EAC could provide public education for the community regarding conversion from oil to gas.

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

Mr. Schultz continues to work with Tookany-Tacony/ Frankford Watershed Partnership (TTF) on educational outreach sessions on stormwater and general education. Mr. Schultz is planning an educational event for Old York Road, the Wyncote bird sanctuary and High School Park.

Ms. Forman noted that she attended the Rock Creek Greenway Visioning Session. Discussion included concerns about safety in bringing people to the area, hiking and biking trails, creating arts and educational areas, and stormwater management. Mr. Schultz noted that the biking and trail groups should be involved.

Ms. Baumgarten noted that twelve people attended the TTF Workshop at the Glenside Free Library. She added that the Library was eager for sustainable topics.

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

D. Building Committee Report – Ms. Rosenberg reviewed her written report (See attached) and noted the following:

- The School District is interested in having a National Bike Day. Safe bike routes would have to be established for the event. She would like to seek information from Mr. Mettler.
- Continues to pursue student representation at EAC meetings.
- The School Board is open to discussion and working toward creating sustainability clubs at the Cheltenham High School.

Tom McHugh reported that he attended a recent School District meeting discussion on Wyncote Elementary School. Mr. McHugh noted that the Township code for water retention storage is one inch. The Glenside Elementary School has a little over one inch and the Cheltenham Elementary School has two inches plus and the Wyncote Middle School exceeds the Township Code. He questioned the need for a Bus Loop, which expands the impervious surface, but some felt the loop improved safety for students. Ms. Rosenberg suggested Mr. McHugh have a conversation with Mr. Bavi.

E. Communications Committee and Website Design – Ms. Baumgarten presented a written report, which was distributed and reviewed at the meeting. (See attached.) Ms. Baumgarten requested help with the e-newsletter. Mr. Schultz asked Mr. Carey to work with the Communications Committee to assist with the e-newsletter and the website development. A Communications Sub-Committee meeting (Ms. Baumgarten, Mr. Carey, Ms. Forman, Ms. Rosenberg) will be scheduled to revise the current draft of the EAC website content and structure.

4. Old Business:

A. EAC Sustainability Sub-Committee Plan – Mr. Schultz presented the results of an ad hoc committee meeting held on August 27, 2012, to consider EAC implementation of the Sustainable Cheltenham Plan (See attached.) Discussion ensued. Mr. Schultz noted that the intent is to choose a few goals for implementation but to limit the responsibility of the EAC. Mr. Mc Hugh asked if Mr. Haywood said anything about Sustainability Committee members becoming involved. Mr. Schultz felt more could be accomplished with more committees, which requires more volunteers, and he would like greater ex-officio member participation on the committees. Ms. Foreman reiterated a suggestion to consider altering the EAC subcommittee

structures to closer align with Sustainable Cheltenham goals. Ms. Gibson noted that contents of the Sustainable Cheltenham website could be incorporated into the Township's website, if needed.

B. Update on Community Outreach Meetings to Review the Draft Riparian Corridor Conservation District Ordinance – Ms. Duffy reported that meetings were held August 23, 2012, at Curtis Hall and on September 18, 2012, at Glenside Hall. Mr. Schultz noted that approximately 46 people attended the meetings. Ms. Duffy felt that the information was well received and feedback was favorable. She noted that Mr. Schwartzschild, a resident of Elkins Park, discussed efforts to protect Jenkintown Creek along Jenkintown Road from problems upstream. A 200 foot buffer from Rolling Hill Hospital helps protect the Jenkintown Creek. Ms. Duffy would like to target the area for a clean-up on Earth Day. Ms. Duffy also noted that the Township should target Jenkintown Road intersections for short dumping and invasive vines.

C. DEP Educational Grant - Ms. Baumgarten reported that educational programs have been planned for November 28, 2012, from 8:30 - 9:30 p.m. at Curtis Hall and March 5, 2013, from 8:30 - 9:30 a.m. at Glenside Hall for business owners regarding stormwater best management practices. The second draft of the educational brochure has been completed and will be printed shortly. A Power Point presentation is being developed. The programs will be advertised via postcard mailings, email lists and website announcements. Sign-in sheets will be available. Attendees will receive a green business decal for their store windows indicating active participation.

D. Update on Curtis Arboretum Conservation & Landscape Management Plan – Mr. Schultz stated he reviewed the proposals for professional landscape design services along with

Township Staff. He enumerated on the qualifications of NAM Planning and Design, LLC who was awarded a contract at the September Board of Commissioners meeting. A Steering Committee is being formed to participate in a series of meetings regarding the project design elements.

E. *Army Corps of Engineers Steering Committee* – Ms. Forman updated the members on the progress of the 45 surveys. At least half of the surveys have been reviewed. She was impressed by the accuracy of their models as verified by historical data. There is a team project meeting planned for next month. Mr. McHugh inquired about the Glenside and Rices Mill site assessments.

F. *FY 2013 Budget* - Ms. Gibson asked members for feedback on the EAC's 2013 operating budget. Following a lengthy discussion, in which numerous ideas were voiced, it was agreed to ask for the same amount as last year.

5. New Business:

A. *Ralph Morgan Park Streambank Stabilization Project* - Plan sheets for the Tookany Creek Streambank Restoration, Phase III at Ralph Morgan Park, prepared by Mr. John Munro, Township Ecologist, were presented to the EAC members. Mr. Schultz would like to provide input. Ms. Duffy is familiar with Mr. Munro's work and puts her faith in him. Ms. Forman inquired about biological treatments and the streambank condition, which is vulnerable due to dumping. Ms. Forman also asked what funding was made available for this project. She also inquired about the FY 2012 H2O grant application.

B. *MS-4 Mailing* - Ms. Gibson asked for suggestions for topics for this year's MS-4 mailing to residents in November. Suggestions included storm drains, fertilizer & pesticides and green cleaning products.

C. Ms. Gibson asked EAC members whose terms will expire in 2013 if their intent was to renew their term in 2013. Both Ms. Duffy and Mr. Carey agreed to continue as voting members of the EAC.

6. **Announcements** - Upcoming Events: Ms. Duffy and Ms. Rosenberg agreed to host an EAC table at the Harvest Festival from noon until 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 13 at Curtis Arboretum to promote environmental education and sustainable information.

7. **Adjournment** – Ms. Rosenberg made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Ms. Baumgarten and approved by Committee. The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 p.m.



Bryan T. Havir
Acting Township Manager

Submitted by:
Kathryn McDevitt

Watershed Committee Report: EAC Meeting September 24, 2012

* **Watershed/flooding Ad Hoc Committee-** did not meet this month.

***Riparian Corridor Conservation District Ordinance-** Public education and ordinance overview meetings were on **Thursday, August 23rd (Curtis Hall) and on September 18th (Glenside Hall).**

Bryan Havir, Acting Township Manager, Julie Slavet, TTF Partnership Executive Director, Eric Jarrell, Montgomery County Planning Assistant Section Chief of Community Planning and I presented at the meetings. Residents who live along the Tookany Creek, or one of its tributaries were invited to attend to learn about how the ordinance would, or would not, affect them. Many residents came and asked questions. Overall I believe the ordinance was well received and verbal feedback seemed to favor the ordinance's protection of the creek.

***TTF Watershed Partnership** - We continue to work with TTFW Partnership to create a watershed education program. Topics will cover the role stormwater plays in flooding in our neighborhoods and how BMPs can help. A list of community groups has been supplied to TTF Partnership and we are assisting in getting these programs set up throughout the community.

***Saturday, September 22nd** met with resident, Bill Schwarzchild, who lives along Jenkintown Creek and who is a life-long advocate of the creek. He shared valuable history about the neighborhoods plight to protect the creek from upstream development in Abington Township and their fight for a historic agreement between the Township and the first hospital, then Rolling Hill Hospital, to create a protective buffer between the creek and hospital buildings and parking lots. We walked alongside the creek from Township Line Road to Church Road. It is hoped that we can get a group to clean the creek this coming spring during our annual Earth Day Projects weekend. Other needs along the creek include: targeting plantings in some of the areas at the intersections where the perpendicular streets meet the creek since there is evidence of eroding creek banks due to storm water runoff, spot checks for invasive vine removal and more routine investigation of short dumping.

***Native Tree and Plant Sale on October 13th from 9am to 2pm at Grove Park (Abington) hosted by Abington Township Shade Tree Commission.** Rita would love to partner with Cheltenham EAC and Cheltenham Shade Tree Commission to get the word out, as well as possible collaboration on other future projects.

* **Parkview Park Riparian Planting is set for Saturday, October 27th (9am to 3pm).** We will be creating a flier and getting it out to the community, as well as sending out email blasts and fliers to Cedarbrook MS and CHS as soon as school begins. We would like volunteers to distribute fliers to the direct neighbors of the Park!

* **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 and Riparian Corridor Conservation District Ordinance.

Submitted by Barbara Duffy

Building Committee Updates for September 2012, submitted by Lorna Rosenberg

School District of Cheltenham

- Wyncote Elementary design will be LEED certified and is endorsed by the parents and staff as an satisfactory design
 - Architect has made considerable effort to respond to the community and work with parents and school staff in Wyncote design
 - Current project calls for 2 green roofs, a rainwater catchment system for plant watering, pervious pavers for some parking spaces and pervious pavement.
 - If the project comes in within the budget, the project will be amazing, hopefully “value engineering” will not cut out all of the green features.
 - October will have more information

- Green Apple Day of Service – Sept 29
 - Cedarbrook (hopefully Myers) will be participating in this one day where student are meeting on the 29th to clean up the Cedarbrook rain garden and add plantings
 - This program is part of an international day of green service in schools

- Draft “Green Policy” – the District has created a general green policy to support efficiency and savings, which will be presented to the Board hopefully in October. If it is passed they will great administrative regulations for green cleaning, purchasing, recycling etc.

- Oct 22 Energy Works will come to Cedarbrook for a presentation via the United Parent Group – Cheltenham students will have a chance to shadow an energy auditor as a benefit

- Sept 21 meeting with Sue O’Grady, communications director , we discussed many green activities for the district that are being considered
 - One day a month, power down day at the high school or all schools
 - Paperless classroom pilot

September 24, 2012

Communications Committee Report

Deb Forman continues to work on the EAC webpages. I continue to work on the EAC newsletters. We need to increase the capacity of the Communications Committee. There is more work to do than what Deb and I can complete. David McVeigh Schultz assisted this month also. One newsletter was sent with information on Abington's native tree pre-order sale.

The work that is left undone: there were multiple notices of meetings that could have been sent: Information from High School Park, TTF and the Township (recycling).

Recommendation: 1. Identify a second or third person that can also write the newsletters so the writing responsibilities can be shared. 2. Meet this coming month to write the webpages.

Sincerely,

Dottie Baumgarten

Board Chair Comments on EAC Old Business

A. EAC Sustainability Committee Formation

1. The EAC's existing committees will provide oversight of implementation of the municipal action plan.
2. A new EAC community sustainability committee would provide oversight of the community sustainability goals and objectives.
3. The community sustainability committee would use its discretion to develop and implementation action plans for a very small number of the sustainability goals established by the Township Board of Commissioners.
4. Primarily this implementation would involve recognition of projects or activities of businesses, institutions and organization located in the Township that help achieve one or more of the Township's Sustainability goals.
5. The Committee might organize:
 - community forums award programs and events, and;
 - develop literature for distribution through newsletters and the media.

B. EAC Committee Membership

1. I propose that each candidate seeking ex-officio membership in the EAC commit to active participation in one or more EAC committee, (as voting members are currently).
2. Ex-officio members are provided with lifetime terms that only expire upon member resignation, so committee participation cannot be required of current ex-officio members as a condition of continued membership.
3. According to established township process and on the advice of the Township Acting Manager, I plan to submit of list to him recommending new ex-officio members that would be appointed to the EAC. I am seeking the recommendations and help of committee chairs in this selection process.
4. I have asked committee chairs to renew their committee descriptions and to include implementation of relevant municipal action plans in those descriptions. These will be used in member recruitment.

C. Update on Community Outreach Meetings to Review the Riparian Buffer District Ordinance (Report to Barbara Duffy, Watershed Committee Chair)

D. Update on DEP Educational Grant Project (Report by Dottie Baumgarten, Project Consultant)

E. Update on Curtis Arboretum Conservation & Landscape Management Plan

1. The Parks and Recreation Committee of the Commission approved a project bid by Nam Consulting and its principal consultant, Nancy Minnich to facilitate the Management Plan process and carry out the research and reporting.
2. A 23 member Management Plan Steering Committee has been appointed by the Parks and Recreation. The administration may consider the appointment of additional members to this Committee.
3. Ms. Minnich conducted the Wall Park and High School Park Master Plan processes and has developed plans for stream bank restoration in three parks and two bird sanctuaries in the township.
4. In her bid, Ms. Minnich stated her interest in providing detailed plans for storm water management, irradiation of invasive species, research to enable restoration of the original composition of the Arboretum gardens, and improvement of soil health, biodiversity, habitat systems, and human health and safety.
5. Ms. Minnich has added a member to her team to provide expertise in researching food production and community gardening prospects for this property, and she supports the development of a Friends of the Park organization.
6. Ms. Minnich will conduct 9 steering committee meetings over 18 months, and will conduct citizen surveys, key person interview, and two public hearings.

F. Report from Army Corps of Engineers Advisory Committee

1. 2nd Advisory Committee Meeting – late August
2. Research on extent and cost of flood damage and related water levels associated with each area conducted in collaboration with flood victims -- 46 resident surveys were completed and 25 reviewed as of the meeting date.
3. Computer modeling on the peak flows on the stream is beginning to match selected historic records for verification. Water level documentation in flood areas over the last year will be added to the model for validation purposes.
4. Peak stream flow rates will be modeled along every branch of the stream within Township borders. Stream flow measure in areas upstream from storm damage areas must meet a specific minimum in order to be considered part of the stream treatment area. The qualified treatment areas will be determined and reported by January 2013.
5. Projects cost proposal must be less than the cost of flood damages predicted to be avoided as demonstrated through an Army Corps computer model. Acceptable project costs in given project areas will be determined much later in the research process.
6. Since the storm water treatment areas selected under this process will not include upstream headlands areas, infiltration will not be considered as a treatment. Water detention and bio swales would be the natural treatments considered. Flood berms and walls may also be considered.
7. Property buy -outs for and restoration of properties to wetlands will also be considered.

8. The Army Corps would cover 65% of construction costs and the Township would have to provide the remaining 35%. (The Army Corps would also be liable for 65% of replacement costs if the project were destroyed after construction.)

G. FY 2013 Budget Requests

Some Prospective Items:

1. Committee Hosted Event Costs: Food or amenities for public education and public recognition.

Examples

- Kick-off or culminating events for Park Master Plans or Projects
- Sustainability Implementation Award Events
- Power Down School District Award Event

2. Consulting Assistance

Examples:

- Tasks conducted by the TTF Watershed Partnership or Montco. Planning Commission.
- Watershed Research
- Sustainable Cheltenham Website Posting
- Legal Registration of a Sustainable Cheltenham Corporation

Discussion of EAC Implementation of the Sustainable Cheltenham Plan -Monday August 27, 2012

Present: Barb Duffy, David McVeigh-Schultz, Jonathan Essoka, Tom McHugh, Lorna Rosenberg, Dottie Baumgarten

As assigned by the Cheltenham EAC at its August meeting, this ad hoc committee of EAC members met to discuss Cheltenham Township's request, as presented by its consultant, that the EAC implement the Sustainable Cheltenham Plan, if and when the plan is finalized and approved by the Board of Commissioners.

The general areas of responsibility requested of the EAC were to:

- Represent the plan at township meetings to ensure that goals and action items are being completed;
- Represent the plan at community events to raise awareness of plan goals and activities;
- Encourage coordination among township government and non-governmental organizations to help achieve the sustainability goals and action items;
- Maintain a record of action plan completion, and maintain and disseminate information updates on sustainability resources.

Specific milestones that were proposed to be accomplished by the EAC were:

- Formation of an EAC Sustainability Committee shortly after the approval of the Plan by the Commissioners, that would be composed of "citizens that commit to devote volunteer time towards achieving the goals of the sustainability plan" in addition to their attendance at committee meetings.
- Formation of an incorporated organization (that acquires 501C3 non-profit fiscal sponsorship, or designation), and is fully functional within two years.
- Production of an annual report at the end of the first full year of implementation of the Sustainability Plan, employing the Sustainability Plan Matrix.

The Ad Hoc Committee began by confirming its understanding that the Plan will present one unified set of sustainability goals for the township's government and community, and that separate objectives or action plans are in development to address:

1. the responsibilities of the Township Administration, which will address government township communications, facilities development, maintenance, and operation, waste and recycling management systems, transportation systems, infrastructure, and ordinances, storm water and waste water management systems, infrastructure and ordinances, and development ordinances and fee policies.
2. the aspirations of community as a whole, which will be addressed by any independent choices made by its residents, businesses, institutions, and organizations, which promote achievement of any of the goals of the sustainability plan.

We propose that:

1. **The EAC provide oversight of the implementation of municipal action plans portion of the Sustainability Plan and advise the Commissioners on issues related to its progress.** We understand that the Sustainability Plan proposal will assign all implementation responsibilities for the municipal actions portion of the Plan to the Township administration, and we expect that Township staff will report progress of municipal action steps to the EAC, so that we can play our traditional oversight role with regard to advising the Commissioners on environmental policies and programs. Any proposals regarding Township Government Action Plan, through system, programs, infrastructure and ordinances, will be addressed through the EAC's current standing committees of buildings, energy, transportation, communications, and watersheds.
2. **The EAC refrain from attempting to develop a comprehensive set of action plans through which the community would do its part to achieve the goals stated in the Sustainability Plan.**
3. **The EAC refrain from attempting to implement the bulk of the objectives for community participation that have been proposed to accomplish the goals of the sustainability plan.** We do not have the capacity within our current EAC membership and participation to take responsibility for completion of the community objectives or to create a non-profit structure for a Sustainable Cheltenham organization.

4. The EAC create a sustainability committee within the EAC structure, which would complete public relations, communications, and capacity development tasks that are related to the completion of selected community objectives within the Township's Sustainability Plan, including:

- Select and work to implement one or more community action steps that would help to accomplish one or more of the community objectives approved in the Sustainability Plan.
- Provide public recognition of certain programs and activities of businesses, institutions, and organizations located in the Township that are helping to achieve a particular goal within the Cheltenham Sustainability Plan through:
 - newsletter articles and other written communications to township residents
 - organization of community forums and/or awards events,
 - information tables at community events.

Proposed Committee Structure:

Member Responsibility

- We would request a two-year commitment of committee members.
- This committee of the EAC would have a chair and a vice-chair, and multiple members.

Member Recruitment

- Recruits for this new committee would be sought in several ways:
- The volunteers in the Sustainable Cheltenham Plan Committee would be invited to participate.
- We would ask Sustainability Committee Chair, Art Haywood, to make this request jointly with the EAC.
- We would also reach out to others via the EAC newsletter and various contacts.
- We would look for organizational representation from organizations based in Cheltenham, including educational, religious, environmental, medical institutions, non-profit businesses and business associations, and civic organizations.

Interaction with The EAC

- This committee would report on its activities to the EAC monthly, through its chair or vice chair.
- Generally, the decisions and activities of the sustainability will not be subject to the approval of the EAC as whole, however,
- If the committee would want to request new Township ordinances or access Township resources, in support of the Sustainability Plan's community objectives, the Environmental Advisory Council would vote to approve these proposals prior allowing and supporting their advocacy with the Township Manager or Commissioners.

The Ad Hoc Committee further recommends that the EAC request that the current Sustainable Cheltenham website be managed by Montgomery County Planning for a minimum of one additional year beyond the date of the approval of the Sustainability Plan, either as a pro-bono service or with the financial support of Cheltenham Township. We also recommend to the EAC that it request that Cheltenham Township Staff be assigned to send information on the completion of the Municipal Action Plan to the County Planning Commission for posting on the Sustainable Cheltenham website. In any case, we expect that the Montgomery County Planning Commission will complete its current work on the Sustainable Cheltenham website so that the Commission Approved goals, objectives, and actions steps, are highlighted on the website. We also request that they establish a method by which community organizations can self-report what they are doing to promote specific Sustainability Plan goals or objectives on the Sustainable Cheltenham website.

Respectfully submitted,
David McVeigh-Schultz