

The regular meeting of the Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) was held tonight. Members present were Dottie Baumgarten, Martin Carey, Barbara Duffy, Jonathan Essoka, Deb Forman, David McVeigh-Schultz, and Lorna Rosenberg. Ex-officio Members present were Beth Yount; Bonnie Hay, Christopher Edelstein, Earl Stamm, Jim Butt, Josie Stamm, Karen Shaffran, Kurt Ahrens, Rebecca Messa, Robert Hyslop, Robin Eisman, Sandra Cohen, Susan Levey, Tom McHugh, and William Mettler. Other guests present were Bridget Chadwick, B. Meles. The Township Liaison present was Nancy K. Gibson, Public Information Officer. (See attached attendance sheet.)

1. Call to Order – Ms. Gibson, Township Liaison, called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

2. Annual Reorganization/Election of Officers. - Ms. Gibson opened the floor for nominations for Chair. Mr. Essoka made a motion to nominate David Schultz for Chairman from August 2013 through January 2014 and Lorna Rosenberg for Chairman from February 2013 through July 2013; seconded by Ms. Duffy. Having no other nominations, Ms. Gibson closed nominations for Chair. The members unanimously elected Mr. Schultz as Chair (August-January) and Ms. Rosenberg as Chair (February-July). Ms. Rosenberg assumed the chair and thanked the Committee for its support. Ms. Rosenberg opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chair. Ms. Rosenberg nominated Barbara Duffy for Vice-Chair; seconded by Mr. Essoka. Having no other nominations, Ms. Rosenberg closed the nominations for Vice Chair. The members unanimously elected Ms. Duffy as Vice-Chair.

3. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes – Ms. Rosenberg asked for a motion to approve the January 28, 2013 minutes. Mr. Schultz made a motion to accept the minutes as presented; seconded by Mr. Essoka. The motion was unanimously approved.

4. Introduction and Orientation of new Ex-Officio Members –

- Mr. Schultz stated that the EAC is made up of seven voting members, and four new Committees have been established to implement the Sustainable Cheltenham Goals and Objectives. Mr. Schultz asked those in attendance to introduce themselves and indicate their special knowledge or expertise and which Committee they staff.

- Mr. Schultz distributed informational packets for ex-officio members to review that included: Essential tips for Successful EAC's; Township Ordinance for the Creation of an Environmental Advisory Council; List of the current Board of Commissioners as well as Cheltenham Township Citizen Committees; Environmental Advisory Council's Role in Oversight and Coordination of Cheltenham Township's Sustainability Plan - Ten Goals and Objectives; and the EAC Committee Membership 2013.
- Mr. Schultz noted that the Board of Commissioners funded the hiring of the Montgomery County Planning Commission to develop the Sustainability Plan from its Capital Budget and Mr. Art Haywood, President of the Board of Commissioners chaired the Sustainable Cheltenham Steering Committee.
- Mr. Schultz stated that the regular meetings of the EAC are usually held on the third Monday of each month at the Township Administration Building. Committee leaders will hold meetings at various times and locations. Three Committees have already met.
- The EAC advises the Board of Commissioners by way of the Public Works Committee. EAC will monitor the Township's progress on the Sustainability Municipal Action Plan (MAP) and oversee the Community Action Plan, which will include community outreach at public events and establishing awards, hopefully by next December. Ms. Rosenberg added that each committee should take on one goal or activity for the year. Discussion followed. In response to a question about the Commissioners accepting EAC recommendations, Mr. Schultz noted past examples and added that the Commissioners have even assigned tasks to the EAC. Mr. McHugh commented that Commissioner meetings always include a Citizens Forum at the end, and the public may also offer comments before Commissioners vote on an issue.
- Ms. Rosenberg listed examples of sustainability efforts already underway in the community: Primex Garden Center Eco Workshops, Transition Cheltenham, LED lighting retrofits at Wyncote Towers; Solar array at the Shop Rite in Cheltenham; Elkins Park Condominiums hot water heaters; Arcadia University Zip Car; Friends of High School Park ecological stewardship; health living gardens, farmers' markets; and LEED-certified Myers School. Committees should gather information on what is going on in the community for the new Sustainable Cheltenham website.

5. Committee Reports - Ms. Rosenberg reminded Committee Chairs about the new format for Committee reports.

A. **Energy and Emissions** – Mr. McHugh asked if those interested in the Energy & Emissions Committee are available for a meeting on Tuesday, March 5 at 7:30 p.m. to discuss sustainable development, energy, mobility and waste reductions.

Mr. McHugh stated that he had attended a meeting in Norristown on Municipal Street Lighting. He was very interested in the discussion on the advanced technology of induction lighting. Light bulbs are supposed to last for 10 to 15 years which would save maintenance costs. There still remains the cost of the Public Utility Commission's fees and structures.

B. **Water and Ecology** – Ms. Duffy reported that the Committee met on February 21, 2013, for an introduction and orientation to prioritize goals and actions. (See attached report). She noted the Earth Day activities are scheduled for April 20, 2013, and the Earth Day Festival is being combined with the annual Run for Jake and Wellness Fair on April 21, 2013 at the Elkins Park Middle School Track from 8:30 a.m. to noon. Ms. Duffy reported that the Township Staff reviewed the Herbicide Policy and made some minor changes. (See attached revised policy.) Ms. Duffy made a motion to recommend the revised policy; seconded by Ms. Forman and unanimously accepted. Also, Ms. Baumgarten's second Clean Water Business Partners' Workshop will be held on March 5, 2013.

C. **EAC School Liaison** – Ms. Rosenberg presented her report. (See attached.)

D. **Communications and Engagement** - Mr. Carey reported that the Committee met on February 18, 2013. (See attached report.) Arcadia University's donation to fund Google Apps for the EAC has been confirmed but not received.

Ms. Forman has been working on developing the EAC Sustainable Cheltenham website and noted that John Leshner of the Montgomery County Planning Commission (MCPC) will give the Committee access to the MCPC Sustainable Cheltenham website

resources and templates. Ms. Forman mentioned a Greenleaf Award, Calendar and Blog as components of the website. Committee chairs would add information to website. Ms. Forman is developing format. Ms. Forman noted it was important to standardize the look and feel for brand recognition. Mr. Carey developed a schedule for planning preparation of the eNewsletter, which should include information from every Committee.

At this point in the meeting, the Ex-Officio members were excused from the meeting.
(9:10 p.m.)

6. Old Business

A. EAC/Planning Commission Interaction – Ms. Forman reported that she has been appointed to the Planning Commission. Ms. Forman presented a proposal to integrate EAC interests into Planning and Zoning in Cheltenham Township via joint members.

Ms. Forman thought the EAC needed to communicate with other committees and have speaking rights. She asked Ms. Gibson for a list of members of the Ad Hoc Zoning committee.

B. Riparian Corridor Conservation District Ordinance – Ms. Gibson noted the public hearing was held but adoption was postponed until March because an exhibit was missing from the ordinance that was attached to the agenda.

C. DCNR Grant Proposal for C2P2 Program for Rock Creek Greenway – Ms. Gibson asked the EAC to support the Township's DCNR grant application for implementing components of the Rock Creek Greenway Plan: invasives removal, streambank stabilization, natives planting, rain garden, bio-retention area and educational signage. Mr. Schultz made a motion to support the DCNR C2P2 grant application; seconded by Ms. Forman and

unanimously approved. Mr. McHugh commented that he hoped additional parts of the plan, including the path, would be implemented in the future.

7. New Business – Mr. Schultz expressed concerns regarding Act 537 Sewage Facilities Plan, specifically questioning expanding capacity for a future 30% increase in EDUs, which could open the door to significant development. Mr. Essoka clarified that many EDUs for existing properties were lost when the properties were vacated and DEP limited EDU approvals. He also added that development does not equal paving green space but could mean infill instead. He added that the development is necessary to moderate high residential taxes. Ms. Rosenberg stated that the EAC should review the plan and respond. Ms. Gibson noted that the public comment period was from March 1, through March 30, 2013, and eNotifications would be distributed soon.

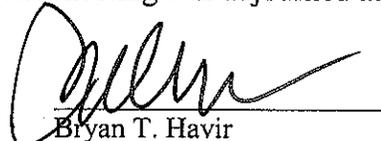
8. Announcements:

A. Ms. Rosenberg announced the following events:

- Energy Works will make a presentation at Cheltenham High School on March 20, 2013.
- Kol Ami will host Deb Goldblum on April 21, 2013 from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. to discuss food waste, composting, food banks, and community gardens.

9. Adjournment – Mr. Essoka made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Ms.

Forman and approved by the EAC Committee. The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 p.m.


Bryan T. Havir
Township Manager

Submitted by:
Kathryn McDevitt

Water & Ecology Committee Report: EAC Meeting February 25, 2013

*On **February 21st** the Water & Ecology Committee met at the Glenside Library. The focus was to welcome and orient the new members of the group. We reviewed the history of the EAC and the committee. The new members bring varied interests and backgrounds and as we move forward we will investigate how the committee will work together. Next meeting will focus on organizing and prioritizing the committee's goals and action items for 2013.

* "**Herbicide Application Recommendations**" draft went to the township staff after being voted on and approved by the EAC Board at our January meeting. Some very minor changes were recommended and made. Changes included adding the word "Pennsylvania" to define the sensitivity list referenced and the to identify the consultant as an "Ecologist".

* **Watershed/flooding**- There was a well-attended public meeting on Wednesday, January 30th at Glenside Hall, with a presentation by the Army Corps of Engineers on progress of the Tookany Creek Flood Damage Reduction Feasibility Study. They presented data that was collected so far on flooding in Cheltenham neighborhoods and will move forward by having a Flooding Workshop in February with key stakeholders. It was recently reported on the township news that ... "The participants combined their expertise to brainstorm best-management solutions to the complex watershed issue. Numerous factors contribute to flooding, so multiple efforts working in concert may be needed to combat it. The workshop was the latest step in the USACE Tookany Creek Feasibility Flood Study."

***Riparian Corridor Conservation District Ordinance**- Public Hearing was pushed back to **Wednesday, March 20th** for adopt of the "Riparian Corridor Conservation District Ordinance". Please attend and support the ordinance.

*TTF Watershed Partnership-

- 1) Next watershed education presentation is scheduled for **Friday, March 15th** with the Wyncote Audubon.
- 2) TTF has started a Trash Task Force in response to trash concerns in parks along the creek and the trash blowing into creeks and storm drains and causing downstream pollution especially from commercial districts. Amy Steffen and Barb Duffy are on the Task Force. Chair – Kelly O'Day has been compiling reports with photos of the trash from specific business districts and has submitted the results to Cheltenham Township officials. In turn, Bryan Havir, Township Manager, responded by having township staff follow-up with property owners in these target areas. More data collected by Mr. Kelly will be compiled after giving property owners a chance to respond to the township notification.

*Clean Water Partners Talks-

Dottie Baumgarten will have a **March 5th event at 8:30am at Glenside Memorial Hall** as per the Clean Water Partners DEP grant. The township has sent out a mailing to 1200 businesses for this event. TTF Partnership is working to help promote the event and to get business owners to attend. Please encourage businesses to attend!

* **Most Earth Day Projects will be happening on Saturday, April 20th**. The email blast has gone out to the community to solicit more cleanup groups. Groups can contact Barb Duffy at beduffy@comcast.net if interested in hosting a project. So far we have six confirmed groups and five more that are tentative.

***Earth Day Festival—new development!** The plans have changed, the Festival will now be combined with the efforts of the annual "Run for Jake" and the Wellness Fair. The new date is **Sunday, April 21st (8:30am to noon) at the Elkins Park Middle School Track**. This new arrangement will be exciting and generate more attendees. It is hoped that all EAC Committees will participate and help with the event planning.

* **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

Action Minutes from School Liaison Committee Meeting of the Cheltenham EAC
February 11, 2013

Chair: Lorna Rosenberg

Attendees:

Lisa Donahue, Chris Edelstein, Justin Moriconi, Jim Butt, Karen Shaffran, Becky Messa,

- Reviewed the organizational structure of the committee and juxtaposition to the EAC
- Reviewed inventory of Cheltenham SD green activities within the framework of the Sustainable Cheltenham Goals

Highlights of School District of Green Activities:

- Building LEED certified schools for all new construction
- Priority of efficiency in HVAC, building automation systems, lighting (LED replacing all fixtures)
- Integrated pest management program
- Stormwater management and waterproofing prioritized
- Strong sustainability programs at EP – 6th grade PEEC program, Cedarbrook Environmental Education – service learning
- Consolidation of copiers in the district, energy savings projected from centralization
- Green Cleaning

Possible Actions:

1. Sustainability must be District priority in operations and education
2. The Committee will draft a message for the Superintendant selection committee to include knowledge and experience in Sustainable schools for the new candidate
3. The Committee must help the District tell their story to parents, administrators, the public
4. Support the District in passing a “green policy” to create support for sustainable practices from the top administration down.
5. Assist the District in measuring savings from energy reduction, cleaning optimization and other operations
6. Possible projects:
 - Energy management expansion at Cedarbrook
 - Zero Waste target for Glenside School
 - Get dashboards running and being used in Myers and Glenside
7. Identify candidates for Sustainability awards from the District

Next Meeting: End of April 2013

CHELTENHAM TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL-2013

Committee: Communications

Liaison to the Council: Martin Carey

Date of last meeting: 02/18/13

Date of next meeting: TBD

Questions for the board/larger group:

- We discussed the idea of requesting information/content from each committee chair regarding news, projects, events ect. for the newsletter each month. The goal is to try and standardize our messaging so that it is aligned with our committees and also the goals of the sustainability plan. We are seeking feedback/commitment from committee chairs on this topic.
- It's our goal for the website to become an interactive workspace for committees to share information with the community. That being said, each EAC Committee chair is responsible for updating their Committee page, the Calendar of Events and when appropriate, adding a News blog. We are seeking feedback/commitment from committee chairs on this topic.

Action Items Completed:

- February Newsletter sent 2/20/13.

Action Items In-progress/Pending:

- Google Apps Funding Allocation
- Google Apps User Account Setup/Training
- Township Calendar / Sustainable Cheltenham Theme?
- Standardizing our "brand" and messaging (website/newsletters/social media/posters ect.)
- Website Development
- Newsletter Development – Schedule/Format/Resources/Standardization
- Social Media Plans
- Traditional Outreach/Communication Plans for Nontechnical residents
- Flyer/Poster for Public Spaces
- Future of Project Website/Integration

Announcements:

The Cheltenham Township Environmental Advisory Council proposes the following recommendations in conjunction with the Cheltenham Township Sustainability Plan, Water Management and Ecological Stewardship Sections:

“Herbicide Application Recommendations”

Introduction:

Since 2000, the Township has completed several successful streambank stabilization projects within the Tookany Creek Watershed as well as numerous riparian buffer plantings. These projects have demonstrated the challenges of dealing with noxious, non-native invasive species. The Township tried to combat these invasives with non-chemical methods, such as countless volunteers digging up, cutting back and pulling out non-native invasive plant species only to have the invasives come back stronger and continue to smother newly planted natives. These labor intense practices began to discourage volunteers and wasted grant money used to purchase native plants. Reluctantly, herbicide applications were then investigated and found to be a common practice in tackling some of the most noxious non-native invasive species by professionals in the riparian restoration field. After consultation with professionals, careful risk assessment and precaution placement, the Township opted to use herbicides to assist in the eradication of the most noxious invasive exotic plants. . It should be noted that the Township **does not** use herbicides in routine landscaping, lawn and field care, or maintenance.

The Township is very committed to the environment and the health of our residents, animals, waterways and land, including our riparian buffers. However, examination of the options determined that it is better to take a short-term risk posed by using herbicides in limited, absolutely necessary circumstances to create the long-term benefit of a healthier and more balanced native ecosystem.

(Please read the attached “Fact Sheet: Cheltenham Township Parks, Invasive Exotic Plant Eradication Project” for more information about the exotic non-native plants in the Township.)

Recommendations:

The Township of Cheltenham will follow appropriate Commonwealth and Federal regulatory guidelines regarding herbicide application, notifications, and pesticide hypersensitivity, as well as the following requirements:

Herbicide Application-

- Any application of herbicide in Township parks and bird sanctuaries will be conducted by a fully trained and certified professional, who can identify non-native invasive plant species and native plant species.
- All specifications of herbicide use in Township parks will feature the generic chemical name (not manufacturer or brand name) as well as spray method, concentration the presence and type-- or absence of -- surfactant, and the dye colorant specified.
- Glyphosate is the herbicide specified for use in Township parks.
- Where wetland or waterways are present, glyphosate **without** surfactants will be used.
- A dye or colorant will be required with any use of glyphosate spray in order to both confirm that spray has been applied appropriately and to enable park users to see where the spray has been applied.
- Spraying glyphosate without surfactant and painting glyphosate with surfactant on the girdle cuts of woody plants are permitted outside of waterways and wetlands.
- Removal of exotic invasive plants within 50 feet of children’s play structures requires mechanical methods (excavation, soil replacement) or cut and paint application of glyphosate (20%) without surfactant on basal stems for woody stock that cannot be mechanically removed.
- For large vines, cutting the vine stems to a stub at the ground and painting the stub with glyphosate with surfactant will also be permitted, except in waterways and wetlands. (Vines such as bittersweet, Japanese honeysuckle, and porcelain berry can be cut annually, or dug out by the roots, in order to avoid any herbicide spraying of these plants near waterways.)

- Woody invasive plants will be treated by cutting or "girdling" around the branch. That will be followed by painting a small amount of herbicide with surfactant on the cut area, except in waterways and wetlands.

Notification & Signage-

- Advisory signage will be placed as a "Public Notice" at least one week before spraying. Placement will be visible to park users especially at park and trail entrances.
- Signage will list the proposed date of the spraying and the chemicals being sprayed.
- Signage will remain in place for a minimum of 8 weeks after the spray work is completed.
- Signage will inform, if necessary, of trail closure on the day of spraying and for at least 4 days after spraying.
- Signage will be legible, weather proofed and placed at least at a 4' height.
- A log of herbicide use per acre, per location, per year, will be kept on file at the Township.
- Letters for citizens on the Pennsylvania herbicide/ pesticide hypersensitivity list will be mailed out as prescribed by regulation.
- Signage should include an advisory that pets should remain out of the spray area for 24 hours
- Educational signage will be placed after planting, if grant funding is available.

Application Timing for best results-

- Initial spraying of glyphosate is to be conducted in the months of June through August. A second spot spraying may be done during August and September. Cut-and-painting use of 20% brush painted, dye added glyphosate on fresh cut basal woody stems may be done outside of the wetland area during any month, but only June through February in the wetland.
- For rhizome plants, such as knotweed and the common reed (Phragmites), the following multiple treatment approach will be required:
 - a. Between May 14 and June 14-Cut back the stalks then gather and trash (do not compost).
 - b. July or August- spray new growth with glyphosate without surfactants.
 - c. Late September- remove dead stalks and spot spray any remaining live plants.
 - d. Next Spring- inspect & follow-up spot treatment with glyphosate without surfactants.
 - e. Each spring & summer- inspect planted area with necessary spot spraying, as needed.

Precautions after Application-

- Staff and/or volunteers doing planting work in Township parks are advised to use garden gloves. For volunteers, such gloves will be provided. (Long sleeve clothing and ability to identify poison ivy should also be required.)
- Eradication of exotic invasive plants in Township parks will be followed by planting of native plants a maximum of 2 months later or the following season after eradication has been confirmed.
- Deer fencing will be erected following the replanting of the sprayed area. The fencing will restrict animal and human access to the site.
- Deer fencing must remain in place for a minimum of 3 to 5 years after erection as additional protection against exposure to spot spraying and to protect plantings from animal and human damage.

Monitoring-

- The Environmental Advisory Council will review the implementation of these policies one year after their approval and reevaluate the policy every 5 years after its approval.
- The Township's Ecologist consultant and the Public Works Department will participate in these reviews.
- Each spring, the Township's Public Works staff and /or volunteers will monitor sites to see if invasive plants resurface and to check on native plant growth and report findings to the Park Maintenance Superintendent.

Submitted by EAC Watershed Committee

Consultant: John Munro, Munro Ecological Services, Inc.

FACT SHEET

CHELTENHAM TOWNSHIP PARKS INVASIVE EXOTIC PLANT ERADICATION PROJECT

Cheltenham Township Parks were established for passive and active recreation as well as preservation of natural plant communities that sustain native birds and animals. Several of the parks were established specifically as bird sanctuaries.

Since that time the exotic (from other continents) plants arriving as weeds and ornamental plants from places like Asia and Europe began to spread from backyards and rail or road corridors into parks. Even birds, particularly European starlings and English sparrows, aided in the spread of exotic plant seeds. Since the 1970's the rapid growth of exotic plants (invasive characteristics) has proceeded at an ever increasing rate. As the number of exotic species increase, and the area of exotic plant dominance becomes more substantial, the transformation of Cheltenham township Parks from wild natural plant communities to exotic plant thickets or morasses becomes more complete. Now it is sometimes difficult to find a remnant native shrub or wildflower in many parks.

The herbaceous layer, along the ground where ferns and wildflowers once dominated is now replaced by garlic mustard, goutweed, and Japanese honeysuckle.

The shrub layer once dominated by spicebush, blueberries, witchhazel, hazelnut and 30 other native shrubs have been largely replaced by Japanese knotweed, Wisteria, various shrub honeysuckles, and Seybold viburnum, all exotic.

The forest canopy has become compromised by growth of porcelainberry, Wisteria, English ivy, and Asiatic bittersweet. Even the native grapes, spurred to aggressive growth by elevated levels of carbon dioxide are more vigorous. The treetops are being shaded out by exotic vine leaves. The weight of the vines causes greater stress on branches and trunks. The additional moisture of vines on tree bark cause greater amounts of fungal growth. The trees are overwhelmed and are felled by winds.

In the native eastern deciduous forest, where native tree seedlings formerly grew to replace fallen trees, now the acorns and hickory nuts fall and are shaded out by exotic vines and herbs. The seedlings (if they sprout) are quickly eaten by deer at ten times their natural density and prefer to eat native plants and avoid exotic plants. In short, almost none of the formerly dominant native trees are being replaced in the forest. What replaces them are exotics such as Norway maple, Tree-of-heaven, and Princess tree, along with some low value native boxelder and silver maples.

This recent history of a forest cover with a history of hundreds of thousands of years unintentionally being replaced by species from another continent provides the reason and the need that the Township has chosen to act upon to ecologically restore, to the extent possible, the native forest communities that have been heavily impacted. The strategy being employed here (as in many other parts of the world where similar exotic species invasions are occurring) is to:

First – Eradicate a majority of the exotic plants and place mulch to stabilize the surface. This step looks ugly with all of the dead plants, but remember that these are all invading exotic plants.

Second – Re-introduce the lost herbs, trees, and shrubs. They will take time to plant and grow. The birds and animals will have more suitable food and shelter.

Third – Begin to rebuild the soils that have also become impacted.

The Township of Cheltenham requests your patience and support while this restoration process is underway.