

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

Members present were Dottie Baumgarten, Martin Carey, Jonathan Essoka, David McVeigh-Schultz, and Lorna Rosenberg. Ex-officio Members present were Kurt Ahrens, Peter Blau, Natalie Hursky and Tom McHugh. Guest: Bridgett Chadwick. The Township Liaison present was Nancy K. Gibson, Public Information Officer. (See attached attendance sheet.)

1. **Call to Order** – Ms. Rosenberg called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

2. **Acceptance of Meeting Minutes** – Ms. Rosenberg asked for a motion to approve the February 25, 2013 meeting minutes. Ms. Hursky noted that she did attend the February 25, 2013 meeting but was not listed in the meeting minutes. Mr. Baumgarten made a motion to accept the minutes as amended; seconded by Mr. Schultz. The motion was unanimously approved.

3. **Committee Reports** - Ms. Rosenberg reminded Committee Chairs about the new format for Committee reports and deadlines.

A. Energy and Emissions – Mr. McHugh stated that the Energy & Emissions Committee held their kick-off meeting on March 12, 2013. At the meeting, discussion noted that review boards at other Townships negotiate for certain conditions in return for granting variances. Mr. McHugh wanted to pass this along to the Public Works Committee to tell the Zoning Hearing Board to consider sustainability goals in such circumstances. He noted that Mr. Bale discussed divesting from fossil fuels at a recent Finance Committee. Also, Mr. Mettler distributed a map at the Energy Committee meeting and a state form used to measure conditions at traffic intersections. Ms. Chadwick noted that she could not find anything about pedestrian safety listed for the modernization of two intersections: Greenwood Avenue & Church Road and Rices Mill & Church Roads. Mr. McHugh attended an EAC meeting in

Cheltenham Mall near Rock Creek Park. Ms. Rosenberg suggested adding this item to the Water and Ecology Committee Agenda and Mr. Essoka raising this issue at the Economic Development Task Force meeting.

C. EAC School Liaison – Ms. Rosenberg presented her report. (See attached.) An Energy Works presentation is scheduled on March 20, 2013. Energy audits are available at reasonable price. Mr. Blau mentioned an active group of parents called Cheltenham Moms and Dads who would be interested in such events.

April is Math Awareness Month and the theme is Math and Sustainability counts. Plug Load Analysis, which captures phantom energy, will be featured.

D. Communications and Engagement - Mr. Carey stated the next communications meeting is scheduled on April 8, 2013. Mr. Carey is working on building structure and a workflow process for Google apps, which he will present to the EAC next month. He is also working on creating a Sustainable Cheltenham brand. Ms. Rosenberg recommended including the logo for EAC letterhead. Mr. Carey asked committee chairs to provide content for the newsletter, which he would like to distribute near the beginning of each month. Ms. Gibson informed him that the Commissioners must approve use of social media like Facebook and Twitter, including how the EAC would monitor and police such use. Mr. Carey will draft a presentation to be reviewed by the Communications Committee.

4. *Old Business* -

A. Status of Herbicide Application Policy - The final version of the Herbicide Application Policy has been approved. (See attached.)

B. Ms. Gibson announced the following:

- A RBC Blue Water Project Community Action Grant (\$1,000-\$5,000) is available for projects devoted to informing, educating or mobilizing people about watershed protection at the community level. Ms. Rosenberg noted the School District was also eligible.
- Natural Lands Trust Green Futures Workshop, “Green Solutions to Stormwater Management” and Dinner is slated for the Montgomery County Community College on May 30, 2013.

Mr. Shultz inquired when an Assistant Township Manager or Grant Writer was expected to be hired. Ms. Gibson noted the Assistant Township Manager position had not been posted yet. [Township Manager Bryan Havar advises that he hopes to fill the Assistant Township Manager position in late May or early June.]

7. **Adjournment** – Mr. Schultz made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Ms Baumgarten and approved by the EAC Committee. The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.



Bryan T. Havar
Township Manager

Submitted by:
Kathryn McDevitt



MEETING ATTENDANCE

Environmental Advisory Council



Monday, March 18, 2013 @ 7:30 P.M.

Carriage House

One Wall Park Drive, Elkins Park, PA 19027

(Please Print Clearly)

Name	E-mail or Other Contact Info, if desired	Member (Y/N)
Jonathan Essoka	jessoka27@gmail.com	
Dave Schultz	david.mcuern@schultz@gmail.com	
MARTIN D CAREY	martin@sustainablecheltenham.org	
Lorna Rosenberg	LSrosenber528@gmail.org	
Peter Blau	pblau@itdata.com	
Natalie Hursky	nhursky@comcast.net	
Tom McHugh	tom.mchugh@monitordata.com	
Kurt Ahrens	k.fahrens@gmail.com	
Dottie Baumgarten	dottiebaumgarten@gmail.com	
B. Chadwick	chadwick@viconet.com	

CHELTENHAM TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL-2013

Committee: School Liaison

Liaison to the Council: Lorna Rosenberg

Date of last meeting: February 11, 2013

Date of next meeting: April 4, 2013

Questions for the board/larger group:

None at this time

Action Items Completed:

- Spoke with Matt Mailinowski, School Business Officer about Sustainability
- Scheduled Energy Works Workshop
- Committee Member Chris Edelstein reached out to Myers Principal about Sustainability Plan
- Send emails to the Superintendent and School Board asking for them to consider knowledge of sustainability for new superintendant

Action Items In-progress/Pending:

- April – School Board consideration of Green Policy
- Planning for a tour and discussion with Tom Macchi of Arcadia
- Reaching out to Waste Management for a Zero – Waste day
- Energy Management being conducted at Cedarbrook with students

Announcements:

- Energy Works Program Wednesday March 20
- Food Waste Event – Kol Ami, April 21, 2013
- June 1, 2013 – Sustainable Cheltenham Celebration at Cedarbrook

CHELTENHAM TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL-2013

Committee: Water & Ecology

Liaison to the Council: Barbara Duffy

Date of last meeting: February 21, 2013

Date of next meeting: TBA- target April

Questions for the board/larger group:

- Need for all committees to help with planning for June Event (see below).
- Karen Shaffran, Cedarbrook Middle School teacher & co-planner of June event, wants to know if committee members can come to some type of forum to educate CMS students about the "Cheltenham Sustainability Plan". (Ex: assembly, classroom workshops,??). This would lead to the development of their end-of-year project which will be displayed at the June event.

Action Items Completed:

- **March Clean Water Partners Talk-** Dottie Baumgarten had March 5th event at 8:30am at Glenside Memorial Hall. Dottie reports that 15 people were in attendance including Deb McCarter (Representative Steve McCarter's wife), a second McCarter Staff person, camp owners (on Rock Lane), and Ancillae building staff as well as Paul Racette from PEC and a woman from Sustainable Business Network who will arrange for Paul and myself to do a presentation for SBN.
- **TTF Partnership and EAC –Watershed Education** program for Wyncote Audubon (3/15/13)

Action Items In-progress/Pending:

- Earth Day projects organizing (Target date- Saturday, April 20th)
- TTF Trash Task Force meeting participation
- Organizing Tree Tenders groups
- June "Sustainability" event planning
- Native Plant ordinance (pending)
- Participation in flooding workshops (Lorna & Deb)

Announcements:

- **Earth Day Festival—another new development!** Plans for combining the Wellness Fair and the ED festival have been halted and now plans are to postpone the Earth Day event until June and book the event with a "Sustainability" theme to align with the township plan and to begin to incorporate the public awareness of the plan, as well as to give CM School students a chance to come up with projects to present at the June event.
- Notice was given for the 30-day public comment period for **Act 537 Sewage Facilities Plan Update**. The Plan Update proposes upgrades to portions of the Township's sewage collection system. Comment period is from **March 1, 2013 - March 30, 2013**
- **"Herbicide Application Recommendations" & "Riparian Corridor Conservation District Ordinance"** will hopefully be adopted by BOC at their 3/20/13 meeting.
- **DCNR Grant application** for the **restoration work on the Rock Creek Greenway** will also be voted on at the BOC meeting on 3/20/13.
- **LIVING STREAMSIDE WORKSHOP – April 6th at 2pm at La Mott C.C.** This workshop will provide information on our watershed, the importance of stream health, and the impact of runoff. It will focus on steps to promote healthy streams including the benefits of native plants and riparian buffers, using examples of local projects. The first in a series that will include a Rain Barrel Workshop & Super Sale (Saturday, April 13), How to Build a Rain Garden (April 14) and a tree workshop funded through a WREN grant. SPONSOR: Friends of High School Park
- **April 10th** the Commissioners will review the revised DEP plan for the **Glenside Flood Control Project**.

**CHELTENHAM TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY
COUNCIL-2013**

Committee: Energy & Emissions (Energy, Mobility & Waste Reduction)

Liaison to the Council: Tom McHugh

Date of last meeting: March 12, 2013 Kick-Off Meeting

Date of next meeting: TBA

Members in attendance: Tom McHugh, Bill Mettler, Daryl Carrington, Bridgette Chadwick, Kurt Ahrens, Tom Bale

Questions for the board/larger group:

- Daryl: Can we get Commissioners, ZHB and LP, when negotiating ordinance relief with developers to expect/ask for actions that benefit the residents of Cheltenham Township in exchange for possible variances? This negotiation process is typical in other municipalities.

Action Items Completed:

- N/A

Action Items In-progress/Pending:

- Tom Bale: Discussed a lack of a realistic national energy policy and feels that local efforts can push the U.S. into playing a leadership role in sustainable clean renewable energy policies. To that end Tom Bale made an eloquent case in front of the Cheltenham Finance Committee on 3/13/2013 for divestiture from fossil fuel companies. The chair of the Township Finance Committee, Commissioner Norris, agreed to consider the proposal.
- Bill Mettler: Discussed the need to assess in an organized manor, the safety conditions for pedestrians and bikers at 36 key intersections across the township. The group as a whole agreed that it was a worthwhile project and felt that "creating community" was of high importance.
- Bridgette is working on a letter to be reviewed by the PW committee that will question PennDott on the pedestrian and biker safety aspects of the TIP #16334 for the "modernization" and "improvement" of the intersections of Greenwood at Church and Rices Mill at Church.

- Tom McHugh is continuing to study alternative street lighting technologies, including induction and improved LED, for the purpose of inviting industry representatives to present energy cost saving and GHG emission reduction data so that a recommendation can be made to PW staff. Tom is also evaluating the Township Manager's response to Bill Mettler's proposal to switch municipal electricity to wind energy, and the possibility to revisit the possibilities for use of wind power in the 2014 fiscal year.
- Kurt: Presented the concept of engaging CHS Science Department and students in a program to promote aspects of the new Cheltenham Sustainability Plan through the use of informative/instructive videos that could be competitively selected for broadcast on Channel 42 and/or added to the Township website.

Announcements:

- N/A

Other Notes:

- N/A

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.