

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

Members present were Dottie Baumgarten, Martin Carey, Barbara Duffy, David McVeigh-Schultz, and Lorna Rosenberg. Ex-officio members present were Kurt Ahrens, Sandra Cohen, Bonnie Hay, Natalie Hursky, Robert Hyslop, Tom McHugh, and Karen Shaffran. 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 accept the April 15, 2013 meeting minutes. Mr. Carey made a motion to accept; seconded by Ms. Baumgarten. The motion was unanimously approved.
3. ***Committee Reports*** - Ms. Rosenberg reminded Committee Chairs about the new format for Committee reports and deadlines.

A. ***Water and Ecology*** - The committee met on May 14, 2013 and will meet again on May 28, 2013. Ms. Duffy announced that all hands are needed on deck for the Sustainable Cheltenham Festival on June 1, 2013.

In addition, issues regarding the Glenside Flood Control Project were discussed. Mr. Hyslop was concerned about a change in the recommendation regarding the capacity and design of Ponding Area No. 1, located along North Avenue, between the plan presented at the March 7, 2013 meeting for Brookdale residents and the plan presented at the April 10, 2013 Public Works Committee meeting. The March presentation recommended a flat overbank floodplain and removing four (4) buildings, while the April version recommended demolishing two (2) buildings and creating a smaller basin-type ponding area along the creek. DEP said the April option would provide the same protection at a smaller cost. Mr.

Hyslop and Mr. McHugh wanted to compare stormwater volume capacity that each option offered, versus if each addresses the 500-year flood percentage probability. Mr. McHugh said that the DEP has stated a number of times that the design provides protection for up to the 0.2% annual (500-year) storm event, which would include Tropical Storm Allison, but in his opinion it obviously does not. Mr. Hyslop thought demolishing the two additional buildings might be worth the additional cost to ensure the effectiveness of the solution. The additional demolition would impact a cell tower. Ms. Rosenberg noted that Mr. Jim Innes' work involves cell tower installations, and he would be a good resource for establishing a cost estimate/cost benefit analysis. Ms. Rosenberg suggested that if Mr. Hyslop and Mr. McHugh were unable to obtain the answers they sought, the EAC could send a letter prepared by the Water and Ecology Committee to the DEP requesting the information. Mr. Schultz made a motion for the EAC to prepare such a letter to DEP if needed; seconded by Ms. Baumgarten and unanimously accepted. (See attached report)

*B. Energy and Emissions* – Mr. McHugh announced that the next committee meeting will be held on May 23, 2013. The committee will continue to seek information on energy usage at the School District and Township.

*C. School Liaison Committee* – Ms. Rosenberg reported that the committee met on April 4, 2013. Ms. Rosenberg added to her report that a student, Sierra Jackson, wrote an outstanding article for the High School Newspaper (*Cheltonian*), which demonstrated a good understanding of the Cheltenham Sustainability Plan. It was suggested that this article be included in an EAC newsletter, with appropriate permission. Ms. Rosenberg added that the Energy Coordinating Event was held at Cheltenham High School in March with four individuals in attendance. (See attached report)

*D. Communication Committee-* No report attached. Mr. Carey stated he is balancing the introduction of new technology (Google Apps) with the needs for the group. Access to Google Apps has proven challenging. Members asked Mr. Carey if he could have their Google e-mails forwarded to their regular e-mail accounts. Ms. Gibson asked the committee chairs to provide current tasks and functions of the newly organized committees, possibly including chair email addresses, in order to update the EAC webpage. Mr. Carey reported the new Sustainable Cheltenham website is available for publishing; however, before proceeding with the launch, there needs to be a commitment from an EAC member (Ms. Forman) to maintain it. Mr. Carey needs assistance with organizing committee meetings, and responsibilities for the committee members should be discussed.

Mr. Ahrens commented that Sustainable Cheltenham public service announcement videos could possibly be arranged via Cheltenham High School students, but an inducement such as a prize or contest may be needed.

#### **4. *Old Business* –**

*A. Sustainable Cheltenham Festival* - Ms. Shaffran, Cedarbrook Middle School, reported that the planning group has engaged 40 to 50 outside groups for the event; the science students are working on their projects (goals of the Cheltenham Sustainability Plan) and at least a dozen of the best projects will be presented at the Sustainable Cheltenham Festival on June 1, 2013 from 12 – 3 p.m. EAC Committee members visited the class to help students pick appropriate projects as well as partner with some of them. Ms. Shaffran thanked Messrs. McHugh and Mettler and Ms. Baumgarten for their visit with the students. Ms. Shaffran noted that tables have been ordered, and community service students will help that day. EAC members are invited to help with set-up on Friday afternoon at 3:15 p.m. in

the Lobby and/or on Saturday beginning at 10:00 a.m. There will be a bake sale, food table and possibly a bike to raffle. Mr. Schultz stated that there are 27 community exhibitors and two musical groups will perform. Ms. Duffy encouraged members to take flyers and posters to distribute throughout the community. Advertising will also include the EAC newsletter, cable access channels, the electronic billboard and a press release. A discussion about printing additional flyers for the School District that included the Turn a New Leaf Sustainability pledge on the back ensued. Ms. Shaffran will investigate if the flyers can be distributed to parents by email. The pledges will also be available at the festival. Ms. Rosenberg noted that Primex will offer a rain barrel for a raffle and also include 20% discount coupon on the purchase of either a rain barrel or composter for those making a pledge. A volunteer will be assigned to take photographs and obtain signed photo release forms. Ms. Duffy will follow up with Transition Town. Ms. Rosenberg proposed contacting the coordinators for the Run for Jake event well in advance to possibly combine the two events for next year.

B. Ms. Rosenberg added that the Food Waste Event was held at Congregation Kol Ami on April 21, 2013 with 25 in attendance.

**5. *New Business:***

Mr. Rosenberg recommended that Sustainability Awards be launched in early December, so planning should begin as soon as possible. Each Committee should offer suggestions for an awards program. Discussion should be scheduled for next month's meeting.

**6. *Announcements:***

A. Mr. Shultz asked if payment had been made for several EAC members to attend

the Tookany-Tacony/Frankford (TTF) Watershed Milestones Awards Ceremony and Reception on May 22, 2013. He was advised that the Township has ten (10) spots for the event which will be comped by TTF since Cheltenham Township was an awards recipient.

B. Mr. Schultz announced that the Water & Ecology Committee and volunteers will be working at Ralph Morgan Park on June 15, 2013 from 10:00 a.m. to noon to cutback invasive knotweed, in order to reduce the amount of herbicide needed.

C. Ms. Rosenberg announced that EAC members are invited to attend a tour of “green” Arcadia University with Tom Macchi on May 30, 2013 at 3:30 p.m.

D. TTF has also scheduled a tour at Arcadia University on June 18, 2013 on stormwater best management practices.

7. *Adjournment* – Ms. Baumgarten made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Ms Duffy. The motion was unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.



Bryan T. Havar  
Township Manager

Submitted by:  
Kathryn McDevitt



## **CHELTENHAM TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL-2013**

**Committee:** Water & Ecology

**Liaison to the Council:** Barbara Duffy

**Date of last meeting:** May 14, 2013

**Date of next meeting:** May 28, 2013

### **Questions for the board/larger group:**

- Need all hands on deck for Sustainable Cheltenham Festival-- June 1<sup>st</sup> Noon to 3pm at Cedarbrook Middle School.
- Review of DEP's Glenside Flood Plan and possible recommendations.

### **Action Items Completed:**

- Earth Day Projects - Saturday, April 20th (over 150 volunteers participated- see attached report)
- Committee members attended Friends of High School Park's Watershed workshops funded by the Water Resources Education Network (WREN) Project. (Rain gardens , rain barrels, power of trees.)

### **Action Items In-progress/Pending:**

- Coordinating with Public Works- Park Maintenance Superintendent to work on invasive species controls in the parks as well as mapping out more "no mow" zone.
- Following flooding projects (DEP & Army Corps.)
- "Turn a New Leaf" campaign to be unveiled at the Festival – EAC Table
- Following TTF Trash Task Force
- Organizing Tree Tenders Reunion group
- Ongoing June 1<sup>st</sup> Sustainable Cheltenham Festival planning
- Native Plant ordinance (pending)
- Participation in Curtis Arboretum Master Plan development
- Attending the TTF Watershed Milestones Award Ceremony & Reception on May 22, 2013
- Attending TD Green Streets Tree Planting Project planning meeting (TBA)

### **Announcements:**

- Flyer for Sustainable Cheltenham Festival will be going out to schools this week. (See attached)
- Saturday, June 15<sup>th</sup> "Invasive Knotweed Cutback" at Ralph Morgan Park, Wyncote (10am to Noon)- Come join us!
- PHS Tree Tenders Picnic- June 9<sup>th</sup> 11am to 2pm (Gorgas Park- 6400 Ridge Ave.)

# Sustainable Cheltenham Festival

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Cedarbrook Middle School  
Saturday, June 1st 12-3 pm



- Student Exhibits
  - Live Music
  - Food
- Green Product Raffle
- Eco-friendly crafts
- Sign up for wind energy
  - Kids' Activities
  - Trash Art Contest
  - Green vendors
  - Native Plant Sale



- **Collections:** Cell phones & books

**FREECYCLING** - bring gently used  
"junk" and go home with a treasure!



*Come Celebrate our Community and Help Build a Sustainable Future*  
kshaffran@cheltenham.org for more info

# Cheltenham Township Earth Day Projects 2013

## Volunteer REPORT

**Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup>** (unless otherwise noted)

### **Keswick Underpass**

*Activity:* Cleanup and planting

*Time:* 9AM - Noon

*Contact:* June Parkinson 215-886-4746

*Sponsor:* Abington and Cheltenham neighbors

**Number of Volunteers: 33**

### **Wall Park**

*Activity:* Cleanup and woodchip spreading

*Time:* 9AM - Noon

*Contact:* Alysa Canally 215-887-8881

*Sponsoring Group:* Friends of Wall Park

**Number of Volunteers: 10**

### **Downtown Glenside**

*Activity:* Cleanup of business district

*Time:* 10AM - Noon

*Contact:* Maureen Haff 215-576-5583

*Sponsor:* Downtown Business Merchants Association

**Number of Volunteers: 7**

### **Elkins Park Library**

*Activity:* Small Tree Pruning Workshop

*Contact:* Ken Buckwalter 215-635-5000

*Sponsoring Group:* EP Library

**Number of Volunteers: ~~Canceled~~**

### **Tookany Creek Parkway Cleanup**

*Activity:* Cleanup & planting at WAR MEMORIAL

*Time:* 9AM - Noon

*Contact:* Carol Chamberlain 215-635-0295

*Sponsoring Group:* Cheltenham/Rockledge Rotary

**Number of Volunteers: 10**

### **High School Park**

*Activity:* Cleanup and trail work near the creek

*Time:* 10AM - Noon

*Contact:* Gina Craigo 215-782-8082

*Sponsoring Group:* Friends of High School Park

**Number of Volunteers: 9**

### **Cedarbrook Middle School**

*Activity:* Trash Cleanup & planting riparian buffer

*Time:* 10AM - Noon

*Contact:* Karen Shaffran 215-601-9916

*Sponsoring Group:* Cedarbrook MS Science teacher's

**Number of Volunteers: 27**

### **Ralph Morgan Park**

*Activity:* Trash Cleanup

*Time:* 11AM - Noon

*Contact:* Ben Mosko 215-885-1506

*Sponsoring Group:* Friends of Ralph Morgan Park

**Number of Volunteers: 3**

### **Edward Parry Bird Sanctuary**

*Activity:* Tree Planting and cleanup

*Time:* 9AM

*Contact:* Brian Hinson 215-887-6200, ext. 226

*Sponsoring Group:* Ann Rappoport & the United Church of Christ

*(A Native Sweetbay Magnolia was donated by Primex)*

**Number of Volunteers: 12**

### **Melrose Park Train Station**

*Activity:* Flowerbed cleanup

*Time:* 10AM - Noon

*Contact:* Riki Lent [rsimone49@aol.com](mailto:rsimone49@aol.com)

*Sponsoring Group:* Melrose Park Neighborhood Association

**Number of Volunteers: 7**

### **Grove Park (\*\*Saturday April 27 \*\*)**

*Activity:* Cleanup, planting & children's activities

*Time:* 1 - 4PM

*Contact:* Dottie Baumgarten 215-870-5650

*Sponsoring Group:* Friends of Grove Park

**Number of Volunteers: 40**

**Total Volunteers: 158**



## **CHELTENHAM TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL-2013**

**Committee:** Energy & Emissions Committee

**Liaison to the Council:** Tom McHugh

**Date of last meeting:** Months ago

**Date of next meeting:** Proposed for May 23rd

### **Questions for the board/larger group:**

- NA

### **Action Items Completed:**

- Electricity data for past year for all township accounts will not be available to EAC (Bill Mettler and Tom McHugh) until the next RFP process. The intention of the EAC is do allow for a better "apples to apples comparison" between clean renewable and conventional energy supplier contract costs.
- Tom McHugh represented the EAC for five of Karen Shaffran's science classes at Cedarbrook Middle School on 5/2/13 to discuss the township sustainability plan and the history of energy use and population growth on earth. The classes went very well. It was much more fun for Tom than his oral surgery of the following week.

### **Action Items In-progress/Pending:**

- Confirm the evening of Thursday May 23<sup>rd</sup> for the next meeting of the Energy and Emissions Committee
- Discuss township divestment from fossil fuel industries
- Make a new request for simple 12 month kWh use and charges for all township accounts. PECO can provide these data as one sheet summaries and at no cost to the township.

### **Announcements:**

- NA

### **Other Notes:**

## **CHELTENHAM TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL-2013**

**Committee:** School Liaison Committee

**Liaison to the Council:** Lorna Rosenberg

**Date of last meeting:** April 4

**Date of next meeting:** Proposed for June 10

### **Questions for the board/larger group:**

- NA

### **Action Items Completed:**

- Administrative Regulations from Lower Merion sent to committee for consideration
- May 30 tour set up for green Arcadia with Tom Macchi – all EAC members are welcome
- Investigated Zero Waste Lunch, will have to begin in Sept
- Energy data for Cedarbrook in progress of being collected and evaluated
- Lorna Rosenberg represented the EAC on the new Superintendent interview team

### **Action Items In-progress/Pending:**

- Creation of a green team as part of the Facilitates committee of the School Board
- Creation of Green Policy for the District
- Zero Waste Lunch Day

### **Announcements:**

- NA

### **Other Notes:**