

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, Tom Bale, Robin Eisman, Tom McHugh and Beth Yount. Guests present were Elaine Alexander, Neil Greenberg, Sidney Kahn, Ann Rappoport and Joan Johnston Stein. 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 7:30 p.m.

2. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes – Ms. Baumgarten made a motion to accept the June 17, 2013 meeting minutes; seconded by Ms. Duffy. The motion was unanimously approved.

3. Introductions – Ms. Rosenberg asked each person at the meeting to state their name, the sub-committee they serve on, and where they live.

4. Google Apps Presentation – Mr. Carey presented a ten-minute tutorial on Google Apps that addressed log in, forwarding emails to other email accounts, accessing Google drive, uploading and sharing documents. Ms. Rosenberg thanked Mr. Carey for the presentation.

5. Committee Reports:

A. Communications Committee – The committee met on July 9, 2013. Ms. Baumgarten reminded everyone to regularly submit information for the newsletter to Mr. Carey. She also asked members to access their Google Apps accounts and to review and provide feedback on the draft Sustainable Cheltenham website. Ms. Baumgarten noted that at the communications sub-committee meeting, discussion included possibly timing the Sustainability Awards presentation to coincide with Arts in the Park next June (see attached report).

B. Water and Ecology Committee - The committee met on May 28, 2013 and will meet again in September (see attached report). Ms. Duffy reported that after soliciting information by email, Mr. Hyslop was reasonably satisfied regarding the second site of the Glenside Flood

Protection Plan which includes a communications tower. However, he indicated that the Dreyfus property wanted to be bought out and wondered if that property was considered by DEP for inclusion in the possibly enlarging the retention area.

C. Energy and Emissions Committee – The committee met on May 30, 2013 and will meet again on July 25 (see attached report). Mr. McHugh reported that Mr. Mettler's event on June 23, 2013 to evaluate pedestrian and biking safety at approximately 36 intersections throughout the Township was a great success. Approximately 40 volunteers visited the intersections and filled out evaluation forms utilized by the state. An ice cream social followed. Mr. Schultz noted that Mr. Mettler will be meeting with the Township Manager regarding this issue sometime this week. Finally, Mr. Ahrens noted that he had invited Mr. Kahn to tonight's EAC meeting to share his experiences with the energy-efficiency conversion of his home.

D. School Board Liaison Committee – Ms. Rosenberg reported that the committee last met on June 20, 2013 (see attached report). Ms. Rosenberg met with School Board members, Ms. Russell and Ms. Haywood, to discuss an approach toward green practices for presentation to the new School Superintendent, Dr. Natalie Thomas. Mr. Dwight Knowl, new School District Director of Education, attended a Math in Sustainability Workshop at Bryn Mawr College on July 15.

6. Old Business:

A. Sustainable Cheltenham Festival - Ms. Rosenberg noted that she has met with the Friends of High School Park regarding a joint event with the annual Arts in the Park event held in June.

7. New Business:

A. Sustainability Awards Program - Discussion ensued about the planning process for the Sustainable Awards Program. Awards may be presented at a combined Sustainability

Festival/Arts in the Park event on the main stage. It was suggested that other Sustainable Cheltenham activities should be held away from the main stage.

B. Discussion of Municipal Action Plan (MAP) Implementation – Mr. Schultz and Ms. Rosenberg met with the Township Manager to discuss means for implementing the MAP goals. Mr. Schultz shared with the Township Manager his revised version of the MAP goals along with responsible departments. The Township Manager proposed three possible areas of concentration on his part: 1) converting the Township's sewer fee system to one based on water consumption, rather than the number of fixtures subject to the results of an existing study that is presently taking place; 2) developing a Green Purchasing Policy and 3) revisiting the concept "Pay As You Throw". He will invite input from each department head by the end of the summer for the MAP goals they anticipate working towards first as they begin preparing for the 2014 departmental budgets. A spreadsheet will then be created. For planning purposes the goals will be primarily operational, without requiring new policy or administration function. Mr. Schultz requested continued reporting of the baseline data that was used in developing the Sustainability Plan. Mr. Greenberg inquired about efforts toward the business community. Ms. Rosenberg noted that while first efforts have been directed at residents, such as asking for a Sustainability Pledge, the Sustainability Plan goals can be adopted by any type of organization. He suggested providing certificates to businesses that pledge to be sustainable. Discussion on local economy included a suggestion that the Township's Economic Development Task Force include discussion and adoption of six to eight goals as part of their efforts to promote sustainability.

C. Pension Fund Fossil Fuel Divestment - Mr. Bale presented his revised proposal regarding the Township's divestment of fossil fuel investments from its pension fund, which he thinks dovetails with the Cheltenham Sustainability Plan on global warming and climate change. He recommends any new investments stop immediately and total divestment be completed over

five years. Mr. Bale presented additional research regarding the impact such divestitures may have on the pension funds. Discussion ensued. In tandem Mr. Bale, Mr. Greenberg and Ms. Alexander presented a resolution for the EAC's endorsement. (See attached.) Mr. Schultz made a motion to present the resolution to the Public Works Committee for their recommendation for adoption by the Board of Commissioners; seconded by Ms. Duffy and unanimously accepted.

D. Mr. Ahrens introduced Mr. Kahn who was asked to describe his efforts to complete the energy efficiency conversion of his home. Mr. Kahn stated that the Building and Zoning Department and Planning Commission were very accommodating. However, he noted that permit costs were much higher than comparable permits in Abington Township. Mr. Kahn worked with an architect to achieve as close to a carbon-zero home as possible within the site constraints. They began with establishing a tight envelope with insulation, windows and coatings; converted oil heat to geothermal heating and cooling; converted hot water system; installed low-flow fixtures and low-energy CFL fixtures. Solar panels were suitable to the south facing slope. He also utilized ground cover and plantings to eliminate grass and the need to mow with gas-powered equipment. Mr. Kahn explained that the upfront costs were very high but, as of the one year anniversary, his energy costs were reduced to \$300.00 for a 2900 s.f. single-family dwelling. Mr. Kahn added that he applied for whatever grants/tax credits were available. He stated that his home is LEED Platinum certified, one of only two single-family dwellings in Pennsylvania with that level of certification. Mr. Kahn would like to get the word out to other residents about what can be done and how to proceed. Discussion ensued about featuring the information in a special edition of the EAC Newsletter. Mr. McHugh suggested featuring a monthly article for similar projects. Mr. McHugh and Mr. Greenberg offered to collaborate on the August article. Ms. Rappoport felt that this was a unique opportunity to market the Township. Ms. Rosenberg would

like to host Sustainability Open Houses spotlighting similar projects in the Township and would like to continue this discussion at the August meeting.

8. Announcements:

- Friends of High School Park Meadow Monitors – Workshops will be conducted on July 25 and 26, 2013 from 6 to 8 p.m. which will highlight native meadow plants and invasive plants which threaten meadow ecology. Participants will be taught identification of non-native species and methods of controlling them. Participants will then be asked to participate in volunteer workdays at High School Park.
- Cheltenham Tree Tenders Reunion will be hosted by EAC and Pennsylvania Horticultural Society on Thursday, July 25, 2013 at Curtis Hall.
- Japanese Knotweed cut back is scheduled for July 20, 2013 at Parkview Park in anticipation of planting project schedule for Saturday, October 26, 2013.
- Mr. Schultz reiterated that a Tookany Creek Flood Risk Management Feasibility Study Update Meeting is scheduled for July 31, 2013 at Glenside Hall. An Open House is scheduled from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. for individual questions and answers. The meeting presentation will begin at 7:00 p.m.
- Mr. Schultz announced that the Zoning Hearing Board will be reviewing the Super WaWa application on August 20, 2013 at 7:30 p.m. He noted that the project would be located near Rock Creek and would increase the paved surface area.

9. Staff Report :

A. Ms. Gibson announced that the Township Manager would like the support of the EAC for the filing of two grant applications for a Tookany Creek Watershed Protection Project between Ashmead and Central Avenue. The Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (PADCED) application is due July 31, 2013. A Growing Greener Grant

application filing date is August 16, 2013. Discussion ensued. Mr. Schwartz asked what would happen if the Township received only one of the grants. Ms. Gibson indicated that the scale of the project would have to be revised. Ms. Rosenberg made a motion to recommend the filing of the PADCED matching grant application in the amount of \$300,000 for the Tookany Creek Watershed Protection Project; seconded by Ms. Duffy and unanimously accepted. Ms. Rosenberg made a motion to recommend the filing of the Growing Greener matching grant application in the amount of \$300,000 for the Tookany Creek Watershed Protection Project; seconded by Ms. Duffy and unanimously accepted.

10. Adjournment – Ms. Duffy made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Mr. Schultz. The motion was unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m.



Bryan T. Havir
Township Manager

Submitted by:
Kathryn McDevitt

CHELTENHAM TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL-2013

Committee: Communications

Liaison to the Council: Martin Carey/ Dottie Baumgarten

Date of last meeting: July 9, 2013

Date of next meeting: Not determined

Questions for the board/larger group:

- Reviewing public (only to EAC members) Sustainable Cheltenham Website as per Martin Carey's email to EAC Committee Chairs. Can you review and comment this month

Google Apps: continue developing skill and usage of Google apps for business of EAC Committee members: today's training: calendar usage.

- Can we plan an "all hands on deck" event in September that includes all EAC Committee members, and has a google apps educational component?

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Action Items Completed:

- Sustainability pledge is on Sustainable Cheltenham (old) website, and links to a spreadsheet that accumulates entries. This spreadsheet can be used for future reporting.
- Sustainable Cheltenham Newsletter sent 6/14 2013

Action Items In-progress/Pending:

- Website development
- Apps education and encouragement of use
- Ongoing monthly newsletters
- Awards Ceremony discussion: when and where?
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- (item)

Announcements:

Other Notes:

CHELTENHAM ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL- July 15,2013

Committee: Water & Ecology

Liaison to the Council: Barbara Duffy

Date of last meeting: May 28, 2013

Date of next meeting: September 17, 2013

Questions for the board/larger group:

- DEP's Glenside Flood Plan- research completed but still would like to see larger water retaining area in site # 2 (Paxson & North Aves). Could site investigation include the possibility of including the Dreyfus Property as requested by the owner?

Action Items Completed:

Action Items In-progress/Pending:

- Continuing to coordinate with Public Works- Park Maintenance Superintendent to work on invasive species controls in the parks as well as mapping out more "no mow" zone.
- Saturday, July 20th – volunteers will cutback Japanese Knotweed at Parkview Park in prep for Fall spraying.
- Continuing to follow flooding projects (DEP & Army Corps).
- Working on ideas to host more rain barrel and rain garden workshops, plus tours of demonstration projects & creating more community demonstration projects to show how we can all be involved in decreasing stormwater runoff.
- Set date for Fall riparian planting at Parkview Park – Saturday October 26th
- Met with other EAC committees to brainstorm ideas for 2014 Sustainable Cheltenham Festival- looking into possibly collaborating with HS Park event.
- Continuing with "Turn a New Leaf" campaign at upcoming township events.
- Following TTF Partnership including their Trash Task Force
- Native Plant ordinance (still pending)
- Participation in Curtis Arboretum Master Plan development.
- Attending TD Green Streets Tree Planting Project planning meeting. (July 22nd)

Announcements:

- Cheltenham Tree Tenders Reunion hosted by EAC & PHS on Thursday, July 25th at Curtis Hall.
- Saturday, July 20th – Japanese Knotweed Cutback at Parkview Park (9am to Noon)

CHELTENHAM TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL-2013

Committee: Energy & Emissions

Liaison to the Council: Tom McHugh

Date of last meeting: May 30, 2013

Date of next meeting: Suggested Date of Thursday July 25, 2013

Questions for the board/larger group:

- Discussion and feed-back on Resolution to Divest from Fossil Fuels – Tom Bale of “Cheltenham Citizens Concerned about Climate Change” (C5?) will report on progress.
- How did discussion with Township Management regarding implementing the sustainability plan go today? Please discuss.

Action Items Completed:

- “Promoting Safe Routes for Bicyclists and Pedestrians” – “Detective Ice Cream Sundae Party” held on 6/23/13 was a huge success and enjoyed by all. Bill Mettler will report on the event and the findings of the intersection surveys.
- BTW; there was a good program about divestment from fossil fuels on WHYY Radio on 6/17-18/13 and is still available for listening in the archives.

Action Items In-progress/Pending:

- Committee member Kurt Ahrens has been in contact with Mr. Sidney Kahn regarding Mr. Kahn’s home near Curtis Hall and the sustainable features that he has incorporated into it. Kurt and Sidney will lead a brief discussion and announce possible plans for another tour of the house. This discussion may occur during the new business portion of the meeting.

Announcements:

Other Notes:

CHELTENHAM TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL-2013

Committee: School Liaison Committee

Liaison to the Council: Lorna Rosenberg

Date of last meeting: June 20,2013

Date of next meeting: TBD

No Questions for the board/larger group

Action Items Completed:

1. June 7, School Board Member, Julie Haywood attended a "Green Your School Workshop" Delaware Valley Green Building Council
2. June 20, Board Members Julie Haywood and Mary Russell met with Lorna Rosenberg to discuss an approach toward green practices to present to new Superintendent Natalie Thomas who started on July 1.
3. July 15, Dwight Knowl, NEW School District Director of Education attended Math in Sustainability Workshop at Bryn Mawr College

Action Items In-progress/Pending:

1. Lorna Rosenberg is drafting a proposal for Superintendent Natalie Thomas and the Board to consider in the District's approach toward green practices and sustainability.
 - a. The approach will focus on policy, governance and practices and include the green policy work and practices that have already been drafted
 - b. The proposal will be completed by July 19
 - c. A meeting will be scheduled in August to discuss with Dr. Thomas
2. An August meeting of the full committee will be scheduled to
3. The committee will continue to work on a "No Waste Lunch" event and National Walk to School event in October.

Report to the Cheltenham Township EAC

Municipal Plan To Divest Fossil Fuel Investments

(revised)

The most urgent environmental problem we face is global warming, and its impact on climate change. The urgency of the situation has been bluntly stated by a scientist who heads the World Bank, President Jim Yong Kim, who states, "If we don't get control of CO₂ emission targets, a 7.2 degree Fahrenheit world could happen as early as 2060. That means that when my three-year-old is my age, he'll be living in this world where the coral reefs would have all been gone. The extreme heat wave that we saw in Russia in 2010 that killed 55,000 people would happen every summer." President Obama in his climate speech on June 25, 2013 urged Americans to "Push your own communities to adopt smarter practices. Invest. Divest. Remind folks there's no contradiction between a sound environment and strong economic growth." Note that our President, himself, raised divestment as a strategy to consider. In the 1980s, hundreds of colleges, churches, and cities across the US divested from companies that did business in South Africa. The divestments raised awareness and helped put pressure on the regime, ultimately contributing to the end of apartheid. By divesting from fossil fuels, municipalities can show the industry, political leaders, and the general public that we demand that our leaders begin working together to solve global warming.

One might question if divestment would weaken the continued growth of those funds. As the divestment movement has grown the fossil fuel industry has tried to warn pension fund managers that divestment will lead to the loss of high yield investments in oil, coal, and gas. This conventional view in fact is not true any longer. A study commissioned by the Associated Press (based on analysis by the research firm S&P Capital IQ) concluded that an endowment of \$1 billion

that excluded fossil fuel companies would have grown to \$2.26 billion over the past 10 years, but an endowment that included investments in fossil fuel companies would have only grown to \$2.14 billion. That is a difference of \$119 million. A series of recent reports (see *Institutional Pathways to Fossil-Free Investing* by Joshua Humphreys of the Tellus Institute) show that divesting from the top 200 fossil fuel companies carries little financial risk and that, in fact, moving investments into clean energy and other climate solutions can increase returns. To understand this new point of view of municipal investments a guide has been developed, *Resilient Portfolios and Fossil Free Pensions* (March, 2013), co-authored by HIP Investor Inc., a registered investment adviser in the states of California, Washington and Illinois, and GoFossilFree.org, an environmental advocacy group. Several fossil free investments are analyzed in detail. (see www.gofossilfree.org under Resources)

Sixteen municipalities have committed themselves to divestment of their pension funds: Madison, WI; San Francisco, CA; Seattle, WA; Boulder, CO; Berkeley, CA; Ithaca, NY; Bayfield, WI; State College, PA; Richmond, CA; Providence, RI; Eugene, OR; Sante Fe, NM; Santa Monica, CA; Truro, MA; Provincetown, MA; Portland, OR. Locally, citizens in Ambler have also launched a divestment campaign. Each of these cities have expressed a concern that time is running out to take effective action against this environmental crisis. The cities believe they must act themselves since a divided Congress has been unable to provide any leadership. The fossil fuel industry has contributed \$9,000,000 each year to Congressional political campaigns to make sure this governmental impasse remains locked in place. Below is a sample of the positions of four of those cities. It is an evolving plan in each city.

Providence RI City Council voted 11-1 June 20, 2013 in favor of a resolution to pull its investments from fossil fuels. The resolution is an advisory to the city's Board of Investment Commissioners, a board appointed by President Michael Solomon. This commits the city to divesting its assets from the top 200 fossil fuel companies because of that industry's contribution to the climate crisis. Council Majority Leader Seth Yurdin stated that the Council has a moral

obligation to ensure that no public money is being used to promote industries or practices that harm the health and well-being of the people of Providence. He said fossil fuels are a major contributor to rising amounts of carbon dioxide, and global warming that already are approaching dangerous levels.

Seattle WA Mayor Mike McGinn requested the pension system governing board to develop a plan to divest fossil fuel stocks from \$2.6 billion in retirement funds it controls. The city must develop a protocol for making such decisions. Divestment is new territory for the city. The board is now working on developing a system for evaluating how to incorporate the mayor's divestment directive. In addition the City Finance Director, Glen Lee, has been asked by the Mayor to make certain that the City will not invest in fossil fuel companies in the future.

San Francisco CA San Francisco's Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to urge the city's retirement fund to stop new fossil fuel investments and sell more than \$583 million worth of shares in Chevron, ExxonMobil and 200 other fossil fuel companies within five years.

State College PA (pop. 42,000) Mayor Elizabeth Goreham has communicated her concern about climate change to the State College Borough Council, which makes policy decisions. She wants to ensure that State College doesn't directly invest in fossil fuel companies because global warming is pushing us in a negative direction. While her opinions are not binding on the Borough her intention is to sound the alarm to the public.

There is already a precedent for divestment in Cheltenham. The Commissioners recently divested pension funds of investments in gun manufactures. This was an expression of community values, and an effort to lead its citizens to understand that investments must consider social values as well as economic ones. We ask that the same consideration be given to fossil fuel investments. We collected the signatures and email addresses of 200 citizens who support divestment in our Township, and now present these names. Some of these people reside outside Cheltenham. They look to our township for leadership in hope that Cheltenham's commitment will inspire their local governments to take a similar bold action. Below is a resolution that we would like to present to the Commissioners for enactment.

Resolution Divesting Cheltenham Township from Publicly-traded Fossil Fuel Companies

WHEREAS the climate crisis is a serious threat to current and future generations here in Cheltenham and around the world; and

WHEREAS, The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Fourth Assessment Report found that global warming is already causing costly disruption of human and natural systems throughout the world including the melting of Arctic ice, the ocean's rise in acidity, flooding, drought, extreme costal weather, and wild fires; and

WHEREAS, Most governments in the world have agreed through the 2009 Copenhagen Accord that any warming above a 2°C (3.6°F) rise would be unsafe, and that humans can only add about 565 more gigatons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere to maintain this limit; and

WHEREAS, For the purposes of this resolution, a "fossil fuel company" shall be defined as any of the two hundred publicly-traded companies with the largest coal, oil, and gas reserves as measured by the gigatons of carbon dioxide that would be emitted if those reserves were extracted and burned, as listed in the Carbon Tracker Initiative's "Unburnable Carbon" report developed by the U.S. Dept. of Commerce; and

WHEREAS, In its "Unburnable Carbon" report, the Carbon Tracker Initiative found that fossil fuel companies possess proven fossil fuel reserves that would release approximately 2,795 gigatons of CO₂ if they are burned, which is five times the amount that can be released without exceeding 2°C of warming; and

WHEREAS Cheltenham Township has a responsibility to protect the lives and livelihoods of its inhabitants from the threat of climate change; and

WHEREAS Cheltenham Township has developed a Sustainability Plan with an objective to “minimize greenhouse gas emissions” and “shift all energy use away from non-renewable and unsustainable resources (coal, natural gas, petroleum) to renewable resources (solar, wind, geothermal)”; and

WHEREAS Cheltenham Township believes that its pension fund investments should be consistent with its Sustainability Plan so that all citizens can live healthy lives without the negative impacts of a warming environment; and

WHEREAS, students at 308 colleges and universities in the United States, including Arcadia, have launched campaigns to have their institutions divest from fossil fuel companies, with 6 colleges now committed to divestment, and citizens in 105 cities are leading divestment campaigns, while 16 cities and municipalities in the nation have already made a commitment to divest fossil fuels; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Commissioners of Cheltenham Township declare that it is the policy of Cheltenham Township not to invest in fossil fuel companies; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Commissioners shall review the investment portfolio of its pension funds to identify any holdings that include direct or indirect investments in fossil fuel companies; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Commissioners shall direct its fund managers to immediately cease any new investments in fossil fuel companies or in commingled assets that include holdings in fossil fuel companies; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Commissioners shall ensure that none of its directly held or commingled assets include holdings in fossil fuel public equities and corporate bonds within 5 years; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Commissioners shall direct its fund managers to prepare a report discussing options both for

investing funds that are fossil free and for insuring the continued positive growth of the pension funds using the growing number of recent investor reports that demonstrate safe strategies for investments without fossil fuels; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the fund managers shall release annual updates, available to the public, detailing progress made towards full divestment; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this policy shall remain in force until market conditions warrant review; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, That the Commissioners of Cheltenham Township urge all local governments, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Cheltenham School District, and Arcadia University, as well as Cheltenham citizens to join the Township in these efforts, and divest any holdings they may have in fossil fuel companies.

Submitted by,

Tom Bale

Member of the *Energy and Emissions Sub-committee* of the EAC

and

Neil Greenberg Ed Lichstein Helen Weiner Michael Boonie Ben Weilerstein

Alex Leff Luz Loyola Elaine Alexander

Members of the *Cheltenham Citizens Concerned about Climate Change*

7/5/2013