

The regular meeting of the Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) was held tonight. Members present were Dottie Baumgarten, Barbara Duffy, David McVeigh-Schultz and Lorna Rosenberg. Ex-officio members present were Kurt Ahrens, Chris Edelstein, Tom McHugh and Beth Yount. Public present were Renee Guarro, Angel Hall and Fred Nocella. Township Liaison present was Nancy K. Gibson, Public Information Officer was also present. (See attached attendance sheet.)

1. *Call to Order* – Ms. Rosenberg called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.
2. *Introductions* – Each person in attendance introduced themselves.
3. *Acceptance of Meeting Minutes* – Ms. Duffy made a motion to accept the August 19, 2013 meeting minutes; seconded by Ms. Rosenberg. The motion was unanimously approved.
4. *Committee Reports:*

A. Communications Committee – Ms. Baumgarten was present and stated that she and Mr. Carey met to discuss gaps in the communication committee process. (See attached report.) Mr. Carey continues to produce the monthly EAC newsletter. Mr. Carey noted that at least 18 members that originally signed on for Google apps have never accessed their accounts. It does not make sense to pay the monthly fees for members who do not utilize the software. The EAC members agreed with this recommendation and authorized Mr. Carey to handle reducing the number of Google Apps users. It was also noted that Ms. Forman began design of a Sustainable Cheltenham website, but she has now resigned from the EAC. Ms. Baumgarten asked who will now take responsibility for the website. Discussion ensued and Ms. Gibson offered to construct a website based on her best judgment, which can be modified as necessary. Mr. Ahrens will contact Ms. Forman. Mr. Schultz requested that the Sustainability pledge have a page on the website. Ms. Rosenberg thought that time should be set aside to discuss the website development at a monthly meeting.

B. Water and Ecology Committee - The committee met on September 12, 2013 (see attached report). Ms. Duffy added that the EAC loaned gardening tools to the Cedarbrook Middle School on

September 9, 2013 for their Curtis Garden Project. Ms. Duffy also reported that she continues to closely follow the Tookany/Tacony –Frankford (TTF) Watershed Partnership Trash Task Force Sub-Committee. Mr. Kelly O'Day provided photographs of trash in the upper reaches of the Rock Creek tributary where dumping has occurred near Cedarbrook Mall at the headwaters of the creek. Mr. O'Day was critical of the Township and the Mall. Ms. Duffy noted that she has requested that the TTF Task Force meet at times when the EAC members can attend to discuss the issues that involve the Township. Ms. Duffy shared latest the information with Mr. Havir who sent letters out to the Mall owners and asked Township Staff to determine if Township property was involved. As a result, Township Staff undertook a clean-up on Township property, and the Mall sent personnel out to clean-up its property. It was noted that many factors that affect the clean-up of the streambank, such as the steep slope and pollution coming from the Philadelphia Water Department's T-01 outfall on the Ogontz Avenue side. Additionally, there are concerns about riparian buffer damage near Shopper's Lane that was caused by the Route 309 road reconstruction. Ms. Duffy made a motion to recommend to the Board of Commissioners that Township Staff contact PennDOT to start discussion for possible streambank area restoration; seconded by Ms. Baumgarten and unanimously approved.

C. Energy and Emissions Committee – Mr. McHugh was present and provided a brief history of Mr. Mettler's Intersection and Bike/Pedestrian Safety Enhancement Proposal, where volunteers visited 39 intersections to assess bike and pedestrian safety. The Public Affairs Committee referred the proposal to Staff for review. The Fossil Fuel Divestment Resolution was presented to the Public Works Committee who referred the matter to the Pension Board for review.

D. School Board Liaison Committee – Ms. Rosenberg reviewed her report (see attached). She looks forward to meeting with Dr. Natalie Thomas, the new School Superintendent, on October 14, 2013 to discuss an approach toward green practices. The Superintendent has already created an Environmental Health and Safety Committee, which includes community members and children's

health professionals. Dr. Thomas is planning environmental health training for the school nurses in light of the mold remediation at Cedarbrook. Cheltenham Elementary School is open, and the Principal has installed signage around the building regarding stormwater management and rain gardens. The building will be LEED certified in the future. Mr. Ahrens suggested a virtual tour of the school as content for the newsletter. Ms. Gibson inquired about Cheltenham High School students creating videos on Sustainable Cheltenham goals. Mr. Ahrens commented that now is a good time to follow up on this project. Ms. Yount mentioned Young Filmmakers Institute as another possible source for videos. Ms. Rosenberg asked Mr. Ahrens, Ms. Yount and Mr. Edelstein to meet after the meeting to discuss the project.

Mr. Edelstein added that the School District will be hosting a Walking to School Day, a national concept, in October 2013. Volunteers will meet at designated points and times.

5. Old Business:

A. Sustainable Cheltenham Festival and Sustainable Cheltenham Awards Program - Ms. Rosenberg noted that the Arts in the Park (AIP) Committee will meet in October and hopefully make a final decision regarding a joint AIP/Sustainable Cheltenham Festival in June 2014. The EAC has proposed including Sustainable Cheltenham Award presentations and student sustainability displays at AIP. The AIP Committee liked the idea of EAC bringing in vendors and fund-raising. Ms. Rosenberg will follow up regarding sponsorship-level information. If approved, Ms. Rosenberg will need members to assist with planning the festival and awards program.

B. Discussion of Municipal Action Plan (MAP) Implementation – Ms. Rosenberg inquired about the status of the implementation of the MAP goals. Ms. Gibson said that Mr. Havir is reviewing the MAP goals each Department Head proposes as a part of the department's 2014 budget review. Mr. Schultz thought that non-cash oriented goals should be easy to share with the committee. He requested

a report on the budget-related MAP goals at the next EAC meeting. Ms. Rosenberg indicated the EAC would be willing to provide research on sustainable approaches to any Township budget objectives.

C. Home Tours of Energy Efficiency Installations – Mr. Ahrens reported that Mr. Carey is writing an article for the EAC newsletter on Mr. Kahn's energy-efficient home redesign effort to promote public awareness on his project. Regarding the House Tour discussed at the last meeting, Mr. Kahn indicated that an early November date would work best for him. Ms. Rosenberg asked Mr. Ahrens to pick a date, which could be announced with the article. Once the date is established, additional homes that reflect energy efficiency and other sustainable practices can be solicited for the tour.

6. *New Business:*

Ms. Gibson announced the following:

- The World Wildlife Fund's Earth Hour City Challenge - This challenge was brought to the attention of a Commissioner and the Township Administration and it has been referred to the EAC for review. It would involve quantifiably reducing green house gas emissions; expanding renewable energy or increasing energy efficiency. Mr. McHugh will review the challenge details.
- Ms. Gibson also reported that the Township received a platinum level Sustainability Award from Greater Valley Forge Transportation Authority for the Township's efforts to promote and provide commuting alternatives to employees.
- Ms. Gibson also noted that the Township enrolled their electric accounts for another year with Constellation New Energy and negotiated 25% wind energy while basically keeping a kilowatt hourly rate of 0.644.

7. *Announcements:*

- Tree Tenders will attend the Cheltenham Township Shade Tree Meeting on September 26, 2013.
- John Russell Park Tree Planting is scheduled for Saturday, October 5, 2013 from 10:00 a.m. to Noon.
- The EAC will host a table at the Harvest Festival on October 12, 2013 at Curtis Arboretum from Noon until 5:00 p.m.
- The Abington Tree Sale is October 19, 2013.
- Riparian Planting at Parkview Park is scheduled for Saturday, October 26, 2013 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- Grove Park Planting is scheduled for November 2, 2013 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Rain date: Sunday, Nov. 3.

8. Other Business:

A. Mr. Schultz noted that on September 17, 2013, the Zoning Hearing Board would review an application for zoning relief for construction of a Super Wawa at Limekiln Pike and Ogontz Avenue. Discussion ensued regarding whether the EAC would like to comment on this issue. Ms. Angel Hall, a Wyncote resident near the proposed Wawa, shared her concerns, including water contamination from oil runoff and fumes from idling vehicles. She offered to provide drawings of the proposal to the EAC. Mr. Schultz asked her to email him the information. Mr. Ahrens noted that Sustainable Cheltenham, in principal, should be taking into consideration on all development projects. Mr. Schultz noted the importance of incorporating sustainability concepts into the Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance (SALDO) to ensure that future development projects in the Township appropriately reflect its sustainability goals. Mr. Schultz made a motion to recommend that the Board of Commissioners appoint two members of the EAC to serve on the Ad Hoc Zoning Committee if and when that Committee undertakes a review of SALDO; seconded by Ms. Duffy and unanimously approved.

B. Ms. Rosenberg and Ms. Baumgarten announced that they will not continue as voting members when their Committee term expires at the end of 2013. Mr. Schultz was undecided. Ms. Forman has officially resigned from the EAC Committee.

9. Adjournment – Ms. Rosenberg made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Mr. Schultz. The motion was unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 P.M.



Bryan T. Havir
Township Manager

Submitted by:
Kathryn McDevitt

CHELTENHAM TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
August -2013

Committee: School Liaison Committee
Liaison to the Council: Lorna Rosenberg
Date of last meeting: September 9, 2013
Date of next meeting: TBD

Action Minutes: Sustainable Cheltenham School Liaison Committee – Sept 9, 2013 Chris Edelstein, Lisa Donohue, Becky Messa, Karen Shaffran, Lorna Rosenberg

Questions for the board/larger group:
Not at this time

Action Items Completed: none at this time

Action Items In-progress/Pending:

- In light of the mold remediation at Cedarbrook, Superintendent has created an Environmental Health and Safety committee which has not yet met. It includes community members and children's health professionals.
- Myers: Mimi Rubin, Challenge Consultant, Cathy Fiskanin, Speech Therapist, Principal, Dan Tahaney and the PTO have adopted an environmental theme for Myers this year. See attached list of activities for the next two months and themes for the year.

September Actions:

- Green Apple Day of Service : "Green-up" day Sept 21.
- Launching a Walking School Bus
- Using the Student Council to support the Green Activities
- Glenside: Becky Messa and PTO with support from Randy Gordon, continue to work on increasing recycling at Glenside also beginning an "Outdoor Club" for students with support from Tookany Tacony Frankford Partnership new staff Alex Cooper.
- Wyncote: Latrisha Chattin/ Amy Flynn and Challenge Consultant: Mrs Kraus could be advocates for Sustainability. Lisa Donahue, a former Wyncote parent volunteered to contact the advocates to determine if there could be some student involvement.

- Cheltenham: They just moved into a LEED designed school, Lorna will contact Principal, Mia Kim to determine her interest in moving forward with using the new school as a learning tool.
- Elkins Park School: Robert a Jacoby, the Challenge Consultant who coordinates the PEEC program has a theme of "Art in Nature" with the 6th grade this year. Michele Staroba would be another advocate
- CHS – Nissim Lebovitz (son of EAC member Beth Yount) is on the 10th Grade student council. He and the council want to engage the school in more sustainability activities based on Sustainable Cheltenham goals. He has connected with Mr. Kuhn about this, but we are not aware of an actions yet. Possible teacher support can come from Ms. Salazar/ Mr. Wolff,
- Green Apple Day of Service is a school service activity being promoted by the US Green Building Council on September 28 and through October. Myers and Cedarbrook have registered projects, all schools will be informed and encouraged to participate.
- Lorna will call: Paul Speigel about the Energy Star Portfolio Manager @ Cedarbrook. Energy data for each school is being collected by Chris Edelstein but we need to re-engage Paul to decide on next steps.
- Lorna will contact Matt Malinowski, business manager about extra pay for extra duty for a CHS teacher leader for the environmental club.
- The committee supports all of the schools participating in the Sustainable Cheltenham Festival in June @ Arts in the Park. We will invite and work with each school to create a display about the sustainable activates at their school during the past year. The EAC will consider giving certificates of recognition for contributing students and teachers from each school.

CHELTENHAM TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL-2013

Committee: Communications

Liaison to the Council: Dottie Baumgarten

Date of last meeting: Monday 9/9/2013

Date of next meeting: Monday 10/14/2013

Questions for the board/larger group:

- How shall we proceed with the Website development? We need input beyond Communications Committee at the moment.
- How shall we proceed with the Google Apps use/development? We need input beyond Communications Committee at the moment.

Action Items Completed:

- Newsletter send out September 16, 2013 (Martin)
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Action Items In-progress/Pending:

- Article on Sydney Kahn's house and LEED certification buildings before next October EAC meeting.
- Continued development of Website
- Continued development of Google Apps

Announcements:

- (item)
- (item)
- (item)

Other Notes:

CHELTENHAM ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL- September 16, 2013

Committee: Water & Ecology

Liaison to the Council: Barbara Duffy

Date of last meeting: May 28, 2013

Date of next meeting: September 12, 2013

Questions for the board/larger group:

- ❖ Recommendation to the Chelt. BOC to have township staff contact Penn DOT with regard to the concerns about past damage as a result of the 309 road construction and to hopefully negotiate a possible solution to the riparian damage to Rock Creek stream bank.

Action Items Completed:

- Thursday, September 5th Dave met with Public Works-Superintendent of Public Works, Parks Superintendent & Township Manager to discuss removal of invasive species pilot program in two the parks in the spring. Discussion will continue as more details need to be worked on.

Action Items In-progress/Pending:

- Continuing to coordinate with Public Works- Parks Superintendent to work on invasive species controls in the parks.
- 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
- 2014 Sustainable Cheltenham Festival- looking into possibly collaborating with HS Park event.— Lorna has submitted a proposal to FOHSP & we are waiting for a reply.
- Continuing with "Turn a New Leaf" campaign at upcoming township events (Harvest Festival- October 12th).
- Following TTF Partnership including their Trash Task Force- replied to a recent email from Kelly O'Day regarding the results of his trash photo survey that he conducted on 1,500 feet of Cheltenham's Rock Creek downstream of PWD's T-01 outfall.
- Native Plant ordinance (still pending)
- Participation in Curtis Arboretum Master Plan development. (Next meeting September 24th)
- America in Bloom Program- Jonathan is attending a meeting 9/16 & will report back next meeting.

Announcements:

- ❖ TTF announced they will be conducting tours to showcase projects that demonstrate Best Management Practices (BMP) in our watershed. Tours for the Fall are scheduled for Thursday, October 10th & Friday, October 12th. Check out their website for more details.
- ❖ Abington's Tree sale- October 19th – preorder by October 1st (See flier)
- ❖ **October 16th Pennsylvania Municipal Workshop** sponsored by the Temple-Villanova Sustainable Stormwater Initiative.

❖ **Upcoming Planting:** (Volunteers needed!)

John Russell Park Saturday, October 5th – 10am to noon

Parkview Park Planting- Saturday, October 26th - 9am to 3pm

Grove Park Planting – Saturday, November 2nd - 2pm to 4pm (Rain date– Sunday)

- ❖ **HS Park Events:** (For more details & events go to <http://www.highschoolpark.org/>)

Bird walk	Saturday, September 28 th	8am- 10am
Fall Work Days-	Sat & Sun, September 21 & 22	10am-noon
	Sat & Sun, October 5 & 6	10am-noon
	Sat & Sun, October 19 & 20	10am-noon
	Sat & Sun, November 2 & 3	10am-noon