

The reorganization meeting of the Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) was held tonight. Members present were Lorna Rosenberg, Linda Foggie and Barbara Duffy. Ex-officio members present were Chris Edelstein, Earl Stamm, Kurt Ahrens, Tom McHugh, Robin Eismen, Robert Hyslop and Beth Yount. Guests present were Sidney Kahn, Seery Devinney and Doryan De Angel. Township liaison present was Nancy K. Gibson, Public Information Officer. See attached attendance sheet.

1. **Call to Order** – Ms. Gibson called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.
2. **Acceptance of Meeting Minutes** – Ms. Rosenberg made a motion to accept the minutes of January 27, 2014 meeting; seconded by Ms. Foggie. The motion was unanimously approved.
3. **Reorganization** – Ms. Gibson opened the floor for nominations for chairperson. Ms. Duffy nominated Ms. Rosenberg. No other nominations were received from the floor, so upon motion of Ms. Duffy, seconded by Ms. Foggie, the nominations were closed. Ms. Rosenberg was unanimously elected Chairperson for 2014 and assumed the chair.
4. Ms. Rosenberg tabled the election of a vice chairperson to discuss **concerns of voting EAC members**. The EAC has a maximum of seven voting members, which are appointed by the Board of Commissioners, and a large group of ex-officio (non-voting) members [also appointed by the Board of Commissioners]. Several long-time members left the EAC in 2013 and two new members were appointed in 2014. However, some voting positions still remain open. [Kathy Hampton and Martin Carey have officially resigned, so the EAC has four voting members as of the end of February 2014.] On multiple occasions the EAC has recommended Tom McHugh for appointment as a member. Mr. McHugh reported that Commissioner Rappoport attempted to nominate him at the February Board of Commissioners meeting, noting that the Home Rule Charter permitted any Commissioner to nominate. However, the nomination was tabled when the Township Manager reported that he did not recall the Township receiving Mr. McHugh's

resume. Mr. McHugh said he did submit his resume as instructed but has since sent copies to each member of the Board. Ms. Duffy read the section of the Municipal Code relating to the EAC. Ms. Gibson noted the possible discrepancy between the code and Home Rule Charter regarding the Board President's prerogative in making EAC appointments. Members were upset that EAC recommendations apparently carry no weight. Ms. Rosenberg invited members to suggest ideas for the next step. After discussing several options, members decided to both request the Board of Commissioners consider filling all open positions with their recommended candidates during the March 19 Board meeting and to seek each Commissioner's support individually in the meantime. Ms. Duffy made a motion to establish a prioritized list of recommended candidates as follows: 1) Tom McHugh, 2) Kurt Ahrens, 3) Sidney Kahn and 4) Chris Edelstein; seconded by Ms. Rosenberg. The motion was unanimously approved.

**5. Tookany Creek Flood Damage Reduction Study** – Mr. McHugh thought an EAC representative should be appointed to the committee working with the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) on the Tookany Creek Flood Damage Reduction Study, since previous representatives are no longer members. A question arose about whether federal regulations would permit an ex-officio member to represent the EAC. [The Township Manager has appointed Barbara Duffy as the EAC representative on the study committee since she is a voting member of the EAC.]

**6. Committee Reports:**

A. *Communications Committee* – No report

B. *Water and Ecology Committee* – Ms. Duffy submitted her report (see attached). She announced her intention to finalize the Earth Day project list by the end of the week but noted that she has not received responses from any Boy or Girl Scout troops. She added that an ACOE meeting is anticipated for April, but no date has yet been set.

C. *Energy and Emissions Committee* – Mr. McHugh submitted his report (see attached). He thanked Drs. Kahn and Ahrens for the successful open house. He also recommended making efforts to teach the dangers of global warming to the Board of Commissioners. Dr. Kahn thought outreach efforts would be better directed toward youth, perhaps by inviting students to feature tips for the EAC Newsletter.

D. *School Board Liaison Committee* – Ms. Rosenberg submitted her report (see attached). The Committee is working with the School District to organize student participation in Arts in the Park (AIP) featuring Sustainable Cheltenham. She also reported the School District will be conducting strategic planning for their four remaining facilities, which may include redistricting.

## 7. **Old Business**

A. *Sustainability Awards* – Ms. Rosenberg thanked Ms. Gibson for creating the online Sustainable Cheltenham Award nomination form. Ms. Gibson will promote the awards via the press, eNotifications, cable channels, School District website and emails, and the spring Township newsletter. Ms. Rosenberg asked Ms. Gibson to prepare a special EAC Newsletter since the awards are time-sensitive.

B. *Sustainability Festival* – Ms. Rosenberg reported discussions are underway on how to showcase nonprofits and small businesses at the event – possibly by time-sharing tables – since the AIP organization charges \$500 per table. In addition, Dr. Ahrens and former member Jonathon Essoka are seeking major event sponsors. Ms. Eismen recommended avoiding candidate campaigning at the event as much as possible.

C. *Municipal Action Plan* – Mr. Berg is reviewing the Township's capital program to identify projects that could have a sustainable component.

D. *Super Wawa* – Ms. Rosenberg reported the applicant’s attorney is aggressive, but the opposition is persevering. The zoning hearing board appeal has been continued until March 19.

Ms. Rosenberg reported that Township staff is reviewing how EAC can provide input to other citizen committees. A question arose about whether the EAC could hold additional meetings as needed or conduct votes via email. Ms. Gibson advised that EAC meetings are public and must be legally advertised in advance in accordance with the Pennsylvania Sunshine Law. [EAC votes must be conducted in public at the advertised meetings.]

E. *1900 Ashbourne Road* - Ms. Foggie reported the applicant has many experts who will testify and a large number of residents attended, so the hearing is likely to continue for months. Mr. Stamm prepared a statement about the application he will distribute to members for consideration. Ms. Rosenberg recommended it use the framework of the 10 Sustainability Goals.

**8. Announcements:**

A. Dr. Ahrens reported the Boy Scouts now feature a Sustainability Merit Badge that is important to achieving Eagle Scout.

B. Ms. Eismen announced a protest march against the Keystone XL Pipeline on March 8 or 9 [correction: March 10] in Philadelphia from 4th and Arch Streets to the Federal Building.

9. **Adjournment** - Ms. Foggie made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Ms. Duffy. The meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.



Bryan T. Haver  
Township Manager

Submitted by:  
Nancy K. Gibson  
Public Information Officer



## **CHELTENHAM ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL- February 24, 2014**

**Committee:** Water & Ecology

**Liaison to the Council:** Barbara Duffy

**Date of last meeting:** December 3, 2013

**Date of next meeting:** TBD in March

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

1. Last chance to contact community groups and encourage them to sponsor an Earth day project (4/26 or 27). They can email Barb Duffy for details- [beduffy@comcast.net](mailto:beduffy@comcast.net) (deadline:2/28)
2. Please refer any e-friendly vendors &/or sponsors to Lorna, Barb, Kurt or Dottie for "Arts in the Park featuring Sustainable Cheltenham" event.
3. Zoning Code Draft—who is reviewing draft from EAC? Is anyone planning to participate in the series of meetings at Glenside Hall?

### **Action Items Completed:**

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

1. List almost complete for **Earth Day projects** for weekend of April 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>.
2. Continue to plan for "**Arts in the Park featuring Sustainable Cheltenham**" event. Contacting school participants, e-friendly vendors, volunteers and potential sponsors.
3. Working with **Glenside Arts & Crafts Festival** planners to participate in the festival (Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup>). EAC will have a table to promote Sustainable Cheltenham, vendors are encouraged to display sustainable features of their art & business, recycling will be encouraged at festival & Earth Day project participants will be given coupon for free slice of pizza to reward their participation in cleanups earlier in day.
4. Continuing to monitor flooding projects (**DEP & Army Corps**). Next Army Corp advisory committee meeting is in March (TBA)—an EAC Board member representative will attend.
5. **TTF Partnership**- attending 2/24 mtg about TTF's partnership with GreenTreks Network to develop a website focused on the stormwater resources of TTF's upstream communities. (more info to come). Also working with TTF to target a riparian buffer project, possibly looking at Rock Creek in Rock Creek Park on Rock Lane. TTF is submitting a WREN grant to target educating creekside homeowners about BMPs & if they get the grant Cheltenham residents will be the focus.
6. **TTF Trash Study** - Kelly O'Day's research of trash at PWD's T-01 CSO outfall at Ogontz Ave is to be discussed by the W&E committee at its next meeting.
7. **Curtis Arboretum Master Plan** development- Still waiting to hear if DCNR approves some additional funding for a survey of the Curtis grounds in order to complete a base map of the property. Next meeting TBA.
8. **America in Bloom**- no update this month.
9. Targeting early spring to coordinate with Public Works' Parks Superintendent to work on invasive species controls in the parks and possibly identify some 'no mow' zones in township parks.
10. **Native Plant** ordinance (still pending)

### **Announcements:**

❖ **TTF Partnership Events:** (For more details & events go to [www.ttfwatershed.org](http://www.ttfwatershed.org))  
BIRDING 101 at BRIAR BUSH NATURE CENTER Sat, March 1, 8<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>, 9am.  
FWW Teacher Training: Understanding the Urban Watershed Training Thu, February 27, 4:00pm – 6:30pm  
At Fairmount Water Works

❖ **High School Park Events:** (For more details & events go to [www.highschoolpark.org](http://www.highschoolpark.org))  
Workday Weekends starting March 22, 2014 – March 23, 2014 (Repeats Every 2 Weeks Until November 2, 2014)  
Lend a hand and learn about the park at Workday Weekends. Meet us at the shed from 10a-12p. Long sleeves and pants should be work. Good boots or closed toe shoes are a must!

**CHELTENHAM TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL-**  
**February 2014**

**Committee:** Energy, Mobility and Waste Reduction (Energy and Emissions)

**Chair:** Tom McHugh

**Date of last meeting:** May 2013 with Ongoing meetings, activities and efforts throughout 2013.

**Date of next meeting:** March 2014 – TBA – “Goals for 2014”

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

- Can EAC design a framework for EAC member input into Commissioner appointments to empty membership seats?
- Should Chairs of committees be voting members?
- EAC E&E Committee would like to move the discussion of Township divestment from fossil fuels investments forward as suggested by some Township Commissioners – How can we best convince one or two commissioners that human caused climate change is real and a very significant concern of the scientific community?

**Action Items Completed:**

- Initial investigation of LED and Induction street lighting
- Intersection survey for biking and pedestrian safety
- First attempt toward Township divestment from fossil fuel holdings
- Energy Efficient House Tour

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

- Analyze energy operation of Township buildings for adherence to our sustainability goals
- Suggest that new development be required to adhere to Township sustainability goals and that variances from Township codes be off-set in some manner beneficial to the community including a possible increase in sustainability features of the development
- Continue to investigate LED and Induction street lighting for possible pilot/test installation
- Request traffic signal conversion status from incandescent to LED and consider a recommendation to upgrade all remaining traffic signal lamps as soon as practical
- Restart discussions for Township phased divestment from fossil fuel holdings
- Assist Bill Mettler, Bicycle Coalition and Township schools with biking, and pedestrian safety projects as well as the “Walking School Bus” program
- Lobby for safer sidewalks and intersection including installation of new crosswalks and crosswalk signaling

- Follow ongoing reduction of regular trash tonnage and possible reduction of tipping fees due to reduced tonnage of regular trash and increasing percentage of recycled materials – Monitor price per ton paid to Township for recycled material
- Assist with nominations for Sustainable Cheltenham Awards
- Assist with Sustainable Cheltenham participation at "Arts In The Park"

**Note: Additional items and modifications to items listed will be discussed at the March meeting of the Energy & Emissions Committee.**

**CHELTENHAM TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL-**  
**January 2014**

**Committee:** Schools Committee

**Liaison to the Council:** Lorna Rosenberg

**Date of last meeting:** January 22

**Date of next meeting:** March 2014

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

- Planning is beginning for School District involvement with Arts in the Park (AIP) featuring: Sustainable Cheltenham 2014
- School District has announced a strategic planning process for the future of our remaining 4 buildings EP, Cedarbrook, CHS and the Admin Bldg- How should the EAC be involved?

**Action Items Completed:**

- Working on Arts in the Park
  - o A letter is being drafted for the Director Curriculum Dwight Nolt to ask him to engage the school principals and their teachers and students to participating in Arts in the Park.
  - o There will be participation from Myers, EP and CHS.
  - o The committee is working on some activities that can take place the day of Arts in the Park that would engage students
- Cheltenham High School
  - o Students are planning a Waste Audit under the direction of consultant Maurice Sampson – to be held on March 19 in the afternoon.
  - o The goal of the waste audit is to examine how materials are collected and moved through the school and improve the rate of recycling at CHS.
  - o The energy data for CHS was entered into ENERGY STAR portfolio manager. It scored a 92. Although this is quite high, the student want to a add another year of data to confirm the score.



- Cedarbrook: School is closing due to mold and students will be moving to three locations, Cedarbrook West (a school on Ivy Hill Rd in Wyndmore) half students will be here, the remainder will be at CHS and the St. Joseph's School in East Cheltenham.

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**Cheltenham ES:**

- **Consideration of creating Walking School Bus to address traffic concerns and receive health benefits. Outreach to PTA @ Cheltenham ES and UPG to get an alternative transportation committee started to implement "Walking School Bus"**

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

School Board:

- Bill England is the new school board rep to the EAC Schools Committee.