

March 17, 2014, 7:30 p.m.
Township Administration Building

The meeting of the Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) was held tonight. Members present were Yuri Berg, Lorna Rosenberg, Linda Foggie and Barbara Duffy. Ex-officio members present were Chris Edelstein, Earl Stamm, Kurt Ahrens, Tom McHugh and Robert Hyslop. Guests present were Sidney Kahn and Doryan De Angel. 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. Foggie made a motion to accept the minutes of February 24, 2014 meeting; seconded by Mr. Berg. The motion was unanimously approved.
3. **Committee Reports:**

A. *Communications Committee* – Ms. Rosenberg noted the committee currently has no members. Ms. Gibson advertised the Sustainability Awards via the School District and an EAC E-Newsletter, as requested.

B. *Water and Ecology Committee* – Ms. Duffy submitted her report verbally. She has completed the list of 2014 Earth Day activities, which will include nine groups. Mr. Ahrens asked if he could still add a project to the list, and Ms. Duffy advised he could. She added that no date has been set for the next meeting on the Tookany Creek Flood Reduction Study with the Army Corps of Engineers, but a Penn State extension course on ensuring water quality was available next week. Mr. Hyslop reported recently attending a beneficial program on storm water management. Mr. Ahrens commented on new regulations limiting insurance cost increases for properties now designated in a flood plain under the new map.

C. *School Board Liaison Committee* – Ms. Rosenberg submitted her report (see attached). She will be meeting with School District officials to promote student participation with Sustainable Cheltenham at Arts in the Park (AIP). She added that she hopes the EAC will

be able to participate in the School District's strategic planning regarding four facilities. Mr. Edelstein suggested sending a letter to the School District.

D. *Energy and Emissions Committee* – The committee did not meet, so Mr. McHugh had no report. He will set up a meeting soon.

4. **Old Business**

A. *Sustainability Awards* – Three nominations have been received via the online form. Members were urged to make nominations. Ms. Rosenberg solicited email contact lists of local organizations to help to distribute the award notice. Dr. Kahn will review the Township calendar for potential award candidates. The nomination deadline is April 25. The EAC must select the award winners by its May meeting so they can be invited to the June 1 event.

B. *Sustainability Festival* – Efforts are still underway by several members to secure a major sponsor. In addition to School District participation, Ms. De Angel is coordinating efforts for a Sustainable Cheltenham Showcase to feature local efforts already achieved. Ms Rosenberg reminded members that volunteer assistance will be required to set up and run the Sustainable Cheltenham portion of the event on June 1 (rain date June 8). She also invited members to informal planning sessions at the CreekSide Co-op held every Monday evening.

C. *Downtown Glenside Arts Festival* – Volunteers will be needed to staff a table at this April 26 event, which will include Sustainable Cheltenham. Ms. Duffy reported that Earth Day volunteers will receive a coupon for a slice of pizza at the event. Members discussed Ms. Rosenberg's idea for featuring composting at the event. Students or scouts would be needed to monitor that only appropriate materials would be composted. Mr. Ahrens will serve a point person for the event.

D. *Super Wawa* – Ms. Rosenberg asked Ms. Gibson to check if the Zoning Hearing Board received the EAC position statement. [Ms. Rosenberg presented the EAC statement at the March 18 Zoning Hearing Board meeting.]

E. *1900 Ashbourne Road* – Members reviewed the draft position statement crafted by Mr. Stamm. Mr. McHugh suggested removing the energy and solid waste components since they did not really support the position. Ms. Foggie will consult a possible wetland authority for additional input. Ms. Duffy thought the Riparian Corridor Overlay Ordinance may be applicable. Mr. Stamm will revise the position statement for consideration at the April meeting since the hearing is expected to continue for some time. Ms. Rosenberg asked Ms. Gibson to confirm the EAC can present its position at the hearing.

5. Announcements:

A. *DCNR C2P2 Grant Opportunity* – Ms. Gibson asked members to consider supporting the Township’s grant application for \$100,000 for streambank stabilization in two segments of Tookany Creek with removal of invasive plant material, stormwater modifications in High School and Ogontz Parks, landscape enhancements, educational signage and installation of a rain garden in High School Park. Ms. Duffy made a motion to support the grant application; seconded by Mr. Berg. The motion was unanimously approved.

B. *Protecting and Enhancing the Tree Canopy* – Ms. Gibson reviewed a Montgomery County proposal asking Cheltenham to partner with its “Protecting and Enhancing Tree Canopy as a Municipal Stormwater BMP” project. The Township would have to assist with collecting and developing educational material, reviewing the results of an ordinance assessment, and participating in the community workshop. Ms. Rosenberg made a motion to participate in the project; seconded by Ms. Duffy. The motion was unanimously approved.

C. *Citizen Committee Outreach* – Ms. Rosenberg suggested the EAC develop a presentation to educate other Township citizen committees regarding Sustainable Cheltenham. Mr. Berg believes he has helpful material from the creation of the Sustainability Plan.

D. *EAC Appointments* – Mr. Stamm asked about the status of appointments of new EAC members. Based on their conversation with individual Commissioners, several members indicated appointments were expected at the March 19 Board of Commissioners meeting. [Tom McHugh, Kurt Ahrens and Brad Pransky were appointed to the EAC at the March 19 meeting.]

6. **Adjournment** - Ms. Rosenberg made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Ms. Duffy. The meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.



Bryan T. Havir
Township Manager

Submitted by:
Nancy K. Gibson
Public Information Officer

CHELTENHAM TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL-
March 2014

Committee: Schools Committee

Liaison to the Council: Lorna Rosenberg

Date of last meeting: January 22

Date of next meeting: March 2014 (The Schools Committee is meeting every Monday to work on the AIP sustainability festival)

Questions for the board/larger group:

- 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? A planning meeting was held on March 4, the Township participated, but the EAC was not included. I mentioned this at the School District Facilities meeting on the evening of March 4.

Action Items Completed:

- Working on Arts in the Park
 - A letter was sent to 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.
 - Lorna Rosenberg and Lisa Donahue on March 13 met with Dwight Nolt to discuss Cheltenham SD participation. He invited us both to meet with all of the school principals on March 18, when they meet regularly to discuss education issues. We will attend to engage the principals personally and obtain a teacher or staff contact for each school.
- Cheltenham High School
 - o Students were planning a Waste Audit under the direction of consultant Maurice Sampson – on March 19, there were too many conflicts, so this effort has again been postpone to a later date.
 - 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. The first group of students have been moved, to CHS the remainder will move to the other locations in the next two weeks. Students will remain in these locations for two years.
-

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"**
- **Made contact with the PTA presidents, but have not scheduled a meeting.**

Action Items In-progress/Pending:

School Board:

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