

The meeting of the Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) was held tonight. Members present were Lorna Rosenberg Yuri Berg, Kurt Aherns and Barbara Duffy. Guest present was Doyran 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 7:45 p.m.
2. **Acceptance of Meeting Minutes** – Ms. Rosenberg made a motion to accept the minutes of March 17, 2014 meeting; seconded by Mr. Berg. The motion was unanimously approved.

3. **Committee Reports:**

A. *Communications and Engagement Committee:* Mr. Aherns agreed to chair the committee on a three-month trial basis. Ms. Gibson will review with him the Constant Contact procedures for creating the EAC E-Newsletter. Members should forward any story ideas to him at kfahrens@gmail.com.

B. *Water and Ecology Committee:* Ms. Duffy submitted her report (see attached). She asked if the Township ever contacted PennDOT regarding repairing the damage near Rock Creek due to the Route 309 Construction Project. Ms. Gibson reported the process just started but noted the challenge in proving any damage was the result of work done over four years ago. Ms. Duffy reported that an area that had been designated as a business site pad has practically disintegrated and the streambanks have significantly deteriorated since PennDOT removed trees and other greenery. She thinks PennDOT should be required to repair the streambank and replant greenery for erosion control. Mr. Berg will research Google Earth photos to try to document the timing of the damage after Ms. Gibson provides him with the dates of the 309 project.

Mr. Aherns reported his Arcadia University students are studying a Tookany Creek tributary that runs through campus, locally known as Beaver Creek. Ms. Gibson asked if their reports would be suitable for the Sustainability Festival.

C. *School Board Liaison Committee:* Ms. Rosenberg submitted her report (see attached). She added that she staffed an EAC table at the Run for Jake event and will attend the Downtown Glenside Arts Festival with Ms. Duffy as well. Ms. Rosenberg reported Ancillae Assumpta has done a lot of activity related to sustainability. She will contact them about participating in the Sustainability Festival.

D. *Energy and Emissions Committee:* Mr. McHugh did not submit a report but did email members a review of Dr. James E. Hansen's presentation at West Chester University on April 10, 2014.

#### **4. Old Business**

A. *Sustainability Awards:* Ms. Gibson prepared copies of the online nomination form for members. Members discussed nomination recommendations. Ms. Gibson will draft an award certificate. To allow more time for nominations, Ms. Rosenberg made a motion to extend the nomination deadline until May 9, seconded by Mr. Ahrens. The motion was unanimously approved.

B. *Sustainability Festival/Sustainability Showcase:* Ms. Gibson circulated copies of the online form for the Sustainability Showcase. Ms. Rosenberg reported that the EAC has raised \$1,500 so far for the festival and reiterated that volunteers will be needed to set up and take down the sustainability exhibits. Ms. Gibson asked to know as soon as possible if any purchases will be needed for the event. None are anticipated at this time. Ms. Rosenberg is pondering developing a display similar in concept to the recent Township recycling report. Mr. Berg noted

he could not compare Cheltenham's recycling statistics to national averages because compost in Cheltenham is measured by volume rather than weight. Ms. Rosenberg suggested he speak with the Public Works personnel at the Waverly Road Compost Center.

C. *Municipal Action Plan:* Mr. Berg noted that nearly every item in the Township's capital budget had a potential sustainability component. After some discussion, Ms. Rosenberg and Mr. Berg will identify the most prevalent categories of sustainable items in order to have the greatest impact.

D. *1900 Ashbourne Road:* Ms. De Angel noted that the lawyer for the opponents of the conditional use were seeking a wetlands expert, civil engineer and realtor to attend the hearing in order to testify. She also prepared a summary of the traffic study (see attached).

5. **New Business:** Ms. Rosenberg noted a need to ensure the new Zoning Ordinance does not inhibit sustainability, for example, by outlawing front yard gardens. Mr. Ahrens suggested a working group review the draft Ordinance after the Sustainability Festival is over.

6. **Announcements:** Ms. Gibson noted the Tookany/Tacony-Frankford Watershed Milestones Award Ceremony is scheduled for May 21, 2014, which members were encouraged to attend.

7. **Adjournment:** Mr. Ahrens made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Berg. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.



Bryan T. Haver  
Township Manager

: Submitted by  
Nancy K. Gibson  
Public Information Officer



## **CHELTENHAM ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL- April 21, 2014**

**Committee:** Water & Ecology

**Liaison to the Council:** Barbara Duffy

**Date of last meeting:** April 8, 2014

**Date of next meeting:** May 13, 2014

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

- Has township staff contacted Penn DOT regarding Rock Creek's bank damage as a result of the 309 road construction? This was requested back in the fall & we have not heard an update.
- EAC volunteer HELP for Glenside Arts Festival on Saturday, April 26th (Noon to 6pm)-& "Arts in the Park" featuring Sustainable Cheltenham (Sunday, June 1st)

### **Action Items Completed:**

- Earth Day projects list completed & publicized.

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

- **Public Works & Parks Superintendent** - Invasive species controls in the parks. Riparian Area Maintenance Pilot Project may have to be delayed due to snow this winter and increase in their early spring cleanup on the streets and in parks. Dave will continue to work with Parks Superintendent on Bi-Annual plan for mowing between plantings in Riparian areas to decrease invasive vine take over. We will work with Landscape contractors to be sure future plantings allow for mowing space between trees & shrubs.
- **Flooding Projects (DEP & Army Corps)** - Word from Bryan Havir, Twp. Manager, reports that Army Corp public meeting was pushed back to May's Public Works meeting and the committee is supposed to meet at the end of April but no date set yet.
- **"Arts in the Park" featuring Sustainable Cheltenham** (Sunday, June 1<sup>st</sup>) Doryan is working on an arts Showcase of Municipal, Residential & Institutional/School sustainable projects/actions for the festival. Also EAC staff will work with Chelt Art Center volunteers to staff the Crafts section at the event. **NEEDLESS** to report we need EAC volunteers to help for the day! Doryan is holding planning meetings every Monday at Creekside Coop at 6:30pm.
- **Earth Day Projects** (Weekend of April 26-27<sup>th</sup>) - **Project list attached. Please encourage friend, neighbors, residents to participate in projects & events!**
- **"Turn a New Leaf" Campaign** at – Glenside Arts Festival on Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup> (Noon to 6pm) – Barb & Lorna will help man the EAC table—is there anyone else available? We are hoping to monitor recycling at the event too.
- **Tree Vitalize Planting Project** – Last phase of Parkview Park planting – planting targeted for end of October or beginning of November.
- **TTF Partnership**- Julie reported 1) TreeVitalize had \$ for a fast planting project and worked with PHS & TTF to identify a riparian area in Cheltenham Twp. Suggestion based on goals of TCWMP focused on Rock Lane Park. TTF is reaching out to neighbors of the park for education about riparian buffers. Power Corp Philadelphia volunteers are assisting with planting on Tuesday, May 5<sup>th</sup>. Planting plan was approved by township staff and includes native trees found in that area. 2) Check out TTF link on Stormwater PA website – Clean your water project. <http://www.stormwaterpa.org/ttf.html> 3) TTF excited about 3 year William Penn grant to hire a Municipal Watershed Coordinator for TTF Watershed Partnership & Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust (PERT). Focus for new hire will be stormwater & education.
- **TTF Trash Task Force** –Julie reported that the above mention new staff person will work with Twp., PWD & Business & Mall owners/managers to Improve trash/stormwater concerns in Rock Creek & Mill Run to address issues pointed out by Kelly O'Day's report. Also, discussed effects of future development near Rock Creek such as WAWA & future of Cedarbrook MS property. As development plans are submitted, much emphasis should be placed on strong stormwater and infiltration controls.

- **Curtis Arboretum Master Plan** -Still data collecting- Nancy is planning to attend 6/1 event with info on Curtis trees and possibly collecting more surveys for public input. If funding is approved, they will be hiring an engineer to start the site survey of Curtis grounds in order to produce the new base map -it could be July or August. Nancy has developed a list of park sites and related information for the steering committee to possibly visit sites this spring and summer for visioning of the master plan.
- **America in Bloom**-Jonathan reports that plans continue for beautifying Elkins Park Town Centre, including the train station and shopping/dining area.
- **Native Plant Ordinance** (still pending)

## Announcements:

### HS Park Events: <http://highschoolpark.org>

- **Earth Day**, April 22, 2014-Come join us from 10a-2pm on this Earth Day.
- **Bird Watching** with Ruth Pfeffer - May 3, 2014 (8-10am). Meet at the shed. \$5 registration fee.
- **Meadow Monitors Workshop**-May 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> 9:00 am – 10:00 am  
The Meadow Monitors Workshops are a series of workshops designed to teach participants meadow native wildflower and grasses as well as non-native invasive plants. We actively monitor growth of the meadow and learn about the habitat it provides. A \$5 donation is suggested.
- **Workday Weekends**- May 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> from 10 to Noon (Repeats Every 2 Weeks until November 1, 2014) Come for bi-weekly workdays. Help steward this great park! Wear long sleeves, pants, boots, and a hat.

### TTF Watershed Partnership Events: <http://ttfwatershed.org/events/>

- **RAIN BARREL WORKSHOP AT WHOLE FOODS JENKINTOWN Thursday, April 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.** Stormwater runoff is the number one polluter of our local waterways. Protect our creeks by learning how rain barrels work and how to install one at your home. This informational workshop will demonstrate how our urban water system works and how rain barrels manage stormwater, plus how you can become involved with TTF.
- **3rd Annual Watershed Milestones Award Ceremony & Reception**-Wed, May 21, 5:30pm – 7:30pm at Junlata Golf Club, 1391 E Cayuga St, Philadelphia  
At this event TTF will honor people, organizations, public agencies, and companies whose efforts in improving and protecting the TTF watershed deserve special recognition.

### Other Events of Interest:

- **2014 Environmental Advisory Network Conference** May 3, 2014 | Crowne Plaza Reading. More info: <http://eacnetwork.org/>

**Encourage friends, family, & neighbors to join an Earth Day Project &/or attend Glenside Arts Festival!  
Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup>**

**CHELTENHAM TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL-**  
**April2014**

**Committee:** Schools Committee

**Liaison to the Council:** Lorna Rosenberg

**Date of last meeting:** January 22

**Date of next meeting:** April 21, 2014 (The Schools Committee is meeting every Monday to work on the AIP sustainability festival)

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

- The District is asking taxpayers to fill out a survey to input their thoughts about changing the configuration of grades in school buildings and a strategic planning for the future of the Cedarbrook, EP, the Administration building and CHS. The surveys are at <http://www.cheltenham.org/>
- Health and Safety Committee is meeting about new policies that will guide the district on Anti-Idling, Non-Smoking, Green Cleaning etc.

**Action Items Completed:**

- **Meetings were held with Dwight Nolt, Director of Education to discuss:**
  - **Creating curriculum for the 4 elementary schools to use their green buildings as a teaching tool**
  - **Participation of all schools in Arts in the Park.**

• Working on Arts in the Park

- We are still crafting the concepts for displays from all of the schools.
  - Myers will be showcasing their Anti-Idling campaign and recycling video and other information.
  - Elkins Park School is organizing a Bike to the Festival event, encouraging students and parents to bike to AIP. There will be a corral to park the bikes and a map for bikers to locate where they began their journey and we will be creating stickers for those that biked and calculating their calories burned and their Carbon Emissions avoided.

• **Cheltenham High School**

- Students are planning a Waste Audit under the direction of consultant Maurice Sampson - on April 23 after school. Also included is a tour of the Waste Management Recycling Facility on April 23 @ 10 am.
- Sierra Jackson wrote an article for the Cheltonian \* see below

- **Cedarbrook:** The relocation of Cedarbrook School is complete. Next phase of strategic planning is moving ahead with community input.
  
- **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"
  - **Glenside ES**
    - **1. From April 1-31, students/classrooms/staff can submit daily "GREEN" tips.** Tips can include how to help the Earth, i.e.: saving water, walking to school, paper reuse, automobile tips etc. Have fun and be creative with them. YOUR tip might even be chosen to be read during the morning announcements! To enter your tip, please go to the Glenside webpage and look for Mrs. Gordon's LIBRARY webpage. Any questions, please email [becky@cbxcorp.com](mailto:becky@cbxcorp.com).
    - **2. Recycled Art Celebration!** Start saving those recyclables. The Glenside Green committee encourages every student to create a recycled masterpiece! Art work to be done at home and delivered to the library the week of April 7. All pieces will be displayed in the library and at the Diversity Festival!
    - **3. Earth Day Lunch – NO PLASTICS/WASTE DAY!** We encourage all Glensiders (students and staff) to bring reusable containers only. The goal is to create the *LEAST amount of waste as possible and to avoid throw away containers (water, juice, yogurt, etc) on APRIL 22!!*
    - On the horizon... the library staff asked about getting more and better benches (with backs) to have in the courtyard. They want to use it as an outdoor classroom.

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

School Board: Still working on a green policy to guide over all green activities.

**Article by Sierra Jackson on the front page of the Cheltonian:**

Most students know that there are recycling bins in almost every classroom, as well as several of the hallways. Some choose to use them correctly, while others throw everything, even ordinary trash, into them. However, because Cheltenham High School is just starting to

re-implement the recycling program, the items within these bins have not been correctly sorted for a long time. But don't worry, the time for correctly recycling has come again.

In Jan. 2014, sophomore Nissim Lebovitz circulated through classrooms, calling for others to help reestablish Cheltenham's recycling program. Others organizing this project include freshmen Liza Becker, sophomores Daniel Sbar and Kyle Lawrence, and senior Jamie Austin under the supervision of Cheltenham Environmental teacher, Vicki Fella-Pleier. Assistant Principal Jill Clark and Custodial Supervisor Steve Chinta are also helping with the program's recreation.

Students were encouraged to sign a petition on [change.org](http://change.org), which received 269 signatures as of Mar. 3. The petition was then sent to Principal Andrew Kuhn and Superintendent Natalie Thomas.

Both Principal Andrew Kuhn and Superintendent Natalie Thomas evaluated the proposal and approved it; since its approval, the petition has made quite a bit of headway in the community. Lorna Rosenberg, the current chair of both the Cheltenham Environmental Advisory Council and the School's Sub-Committee, is helping to restart the program.

Rosenberg also garnered the support of Niche Recycling's Maurice Sampson, III, an expert in waste management improvement. With Sampson's help, Cheltenham scheduled its first waste audit, which evaluates a facility's daily amount of recycled and landfill-bound items, for Mar.19.

The audit serves to show the starting point of the school's daily recycling and how much this amount needs to be increased to reach a set standard. Once this information is known, it will be easier to have an effective recycling program when it officially restarts. Cheltenham High School's contract with Waste Management Inc., makes for an even smoother transition.

Both Sampson and Rosenberg are supplying the equipment and apparel, respectively, for the waste audit. The sorting needed for the waste audit will be performed by Cheltenham students and staff members.

The adults and students involved in restarting this program believe in their cause and its ability to better Cheltenham. Sophomore Daniel Sbar, on of the student organizers, explained that "restarting this program is important for both environmental and economical efficiency in the school. This project is only one in many projects planned to make [Cheltenham] a better place to live."

In correspondence via e-mail, Rosenberg stated that she "would like the [Cheltenham High School] students to know that increased recycling at [Cheltenham] is critical. Forty-two percent of all greenhouse gases are created as a result of the energy needed to create, produce, process, transport, and dispose of the goods we use every day... [She believes] that the students of CHS will learn how they and their teachers can contribute to reduced greenhouse gas emissions which contribute to climate change, through more effective recycling."

The best way to retain the recycling program once it officially starts is for Cheltenham students and staff to continue to see the importance of and give our devotion to recycling.

## 1900 ASHBOURNE TRAFFIC STUDY SUMMARY

Traffic Engineer, Andreas Heinrich from Heinrich & Klein Associates, Inc. gave testimony on April 16, 2014 at 8:30 p.m. regarding the Traffic Impact Assessment for "Ashbourne Estates"-- the proposed condominium community of 145 dwelling units to be developed along the south side of Ashbourne Rd, east of Spring Ave in Cheltenham Township, Montgomery County, PA. To establish baseline conditions and future projections, the assessment consisted of:

- On-site traffic condition observations
- Turning Movement Traffic Count
- Anticipated traffic generated estimates
- Existing/future peak hour volume/capacity analysis
- Review site access

The "Turning Movement Traffic Count" was studied on the weekdays of December 18th-20th of 2013 between the peak hours of 7-9AM and 4-6PM on four intersections :

- Ashbourne Rd and Spring Ave
- Washington Ln and Ashbourne Rd/Mellon Rd
- Ashbourne Rd and Penrose Ave
- Ashbourne Rd and Cedar Ln

The anticipated generated traffic was estimated from data compiled by the Institute of Transportation Engineers published as "Trip Generation Manual."

Table 1 from the study demonstrates estimates that the proposed condominium may generate:

- A total of about 900 trips per day (450 inbound/ 450 outbound).
- A total of 70 trips per hour during weekday morning peak hour.
- A total of 82 trips per hour during weekday afternoon peak hour.

The volume/capacity analysis was completed for the mentioned intersections in accordance with the standard procedures contained in the "HCM 2010 Highway Capacity Manual." By definition, vehicle/capacity represents "the maximum number of vehicles that can pass a given point during a specified period under prevailing roadway, traffic and control conditions." Table 4 summarizes the results based on a "Level of Service (LOS)" Criteria graded on descending quality from letters A-F. According to Table 4, the intersection of Washington Ln and Ashbourne/ Mellon Rd "LOS" decreases from Level C (2015 Future W/O Development) to Level D (2015 Future After Development) in the afternoon peak hour (4-6PM). "LOS-C": signifies fair progression and/or longer cycle length; more vehicles stop at intersection. "LOS- D": congestion becomes noticeable; individual cycle failures; longer delay from unfavorable progression, long cycle length, or high volume/capacity ratio; most vehicles stop at intersection.

There was 43 total accidents between 2008-2012 within the study assessment; 17 of which were on Washington Ln. Since all incidents were not of the same "type" of accident, the roads are not considered a hazard.

Study concludes: "The foregoing Traffic Impact Assessment for Ashbourne Estates clearly demonstrates that there will be little traffic impact due to new traffic generated by the proposed development; and safe and efficient access will be provided."

Next date of hearing: Thursday, May 29th at 7:30 p.m.  
-Wetlands expert will be present to testify for Swift and Choi.