

The regular meeting of the Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) was held tonight. Members present were Lorna Rosenberg, Yuri Berg, Kurt Ahrens, Brad Pransky and Barbara Duffy. Ex-officio members present were Natalie Hursky, Earl Stamm, Chris Edelstein, Bonnie Hay and Robin Eisman. Guest present was 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 7:30 p.m.
2. **Acceptance of Meeting Minutes** – Ms. Rosenberg made a motion to accept the minutes of April 21, 2014 meeting; seconded by Mr. Berg. The motion was unanimously approved.
3. **Election of Vice Chair** – Ms. Rosenberg opened the floor for nominations for vice chair. Mr. Ahrens nominated Tom McHugh. Ms. Rosenberg said Mr. McHugh indicated he is currently dealing with significant family obligations. Mr. Berg nominated Mr. Ahrens, seconded by Ms. Duffy. The motion was unanimously approved.

4. **Committee Reports:**

A. *Communications and Engagement Committee:* Mr. Ahrens presented his report (see attached). He noted that he now has access to the EAC eNewsletter and Twitter accounts. He outlined a proposed Twitter policy:

The Cheltenham EAC will use Twitter to provide an additional avenue for Community Engagement in pursuit of Sustainability and to augment the Council's mandate to provide relevant, timely and accurate information in regard to environmental issues. Specifically, the EAC will generate original "tweets" with information on current and upcoming Township events pertaining to Sustainability or other environmental concerns. In addition, educational information pertaining to the goals of the Township's Sustainability Plan will be "tweeted," from time to time. When neighboring communities or partner organizations (e.g., Tookany-Tacony Frankford Watershed Partnership) "tweet" announcements of sustainability-related events that may be of interest to Cheltenham residents, the EAC may

“retweet” that information to its “followers.” Finally, the Cheltenham EAC Twitter account will not be used for dissemination of communications of a purely social or political nature. Under no circumstances will information of a sensitive nature (i.e., that which could pose a security risk or be deemed confidential) be sent via Twitter.

Ms. Gibson reported that Township Staff recommended against an EAC Twitter account due to record retention concerns and monitoring difficulties if all Township citizen committees implemented Twitter accounts. Mr. Ahrens said the record retention would not be a problem. Mr. Burg recommended tweets be reviewed by members before dissemination. Mr. Edelstein thought the proposed policy was sufficient and a review would defeat the timely aspect of tweets. Ms. Rosenberg made a motion to accept the proposed Twitter policy; seconded by Ms. Duffy. The motion was unanimously approved. Ms. Hursky agreed to serve on the Communications and Engagement Committee.

B. Water and Ecology Committee: Ms. Duffy presented her report (see attached). She also commented on the need for volunteers for Sustainable Cheltenham at Arts in the Park. Ms. Hay added that volunteers can sign up online. Ms. Duffy corrected her report to indicate Mr. McHugh did not attend the Army Corps of Engineers meeting. A discussion was held about the difficulty in proving PennDOT responsible for erosion damage near the creek beside the Cheltenham Square Mall, considering the length of time since the 309 improvements and the other projects in the vicinity since then. Mr. Pransky suggested a better alternative may be to ask ShopRite to help implement a specific plan to fix the problem since ShopRite is very community-minded. To implement that approach, Ms. Duffy will work on identifying the exact problem and formulating a plan to address it. Ms. Gibson added that the Township Manager has

contacted both Cheltenham Square Mall and Cedarbrook Plaza about requirements to better control and remove trash/litter so it does not end up the nearby waterways.

C. EAC School Liaison: Ms. Rosenberg submitted her report (see attached). She mentioned that all School District schools will be represented at Sustainable Cheltenham in Arts in the Park. In addition, her report includes data from a student trash audit at Cheltenham High School.

D. Energy and Emissions Committee: No report.

5. **Old Business:**

A. Sustainable Cheltenham Festival and Awards: Ms. Rosenberg made a motion to name 11 winners representing residents, businesses, institutions and schools for the first annual Sustainable Cheltenham Awards, seconded by Mr. Ahrens. The motion was unanimously approved:

- Myers Elementary School
- Ancillae-Assumpta Academy
- Primex Garden Center
- Federation Housing – Samuel A. Green House
- Dr. Sidney Kahn and John Hubert
- CreekSide Food Co-op
- Andy Rudin
- Ben Adams and Gail Korostoff
- Oskar Dressnandt
- Ramah Day Camp at the Mandel Education Campus Garden
- La Mott Community Garden.

Winners will be invited by both email and letter. The presentations will be made at 11:40 a.m. and 3:20 p.m. on the main stage. Sustainable Cheltenham components will also feature a showcase of all the winners' efforts displayed on a "nature wall," a free bike corral to encourage participants to bike to the event, and a recycled art project: Tookany Creekscape. Ms. De Angel requested donations project of plastic, papers, fabric, ribbon, etc., for the recycled art at the

event. The Tookany/Tacony-Frankford Watershed Partnership, Inc., and the Cheltenham Center for the Arts will also host children's activities with sustainable themes. Finally, Cedarbrook Middle School students will hand out sustainable information and interact with the crowd.

Ms. De Angel added that arrangements have been made for tents and tables, but they need to be transported to the event. Setup will be 6:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. Ms. Hursky agreed to assist. In addition, Ms. Doryan recommended purchasing an 8' x 2' Sustainable Cheltenham banner to identify the area. Ms. Rosenberg made motions to purchase a banner not to exceed \$130 and to purchase card stock for the Sustainability Awards not to exceed \$50; seconded by Mr. Ahrens. The motions were unanimously approved. Ms. De Angel offered to provide free card stock for the awards.

B. Proposed 1900 Ashbourne Road Development: Mr. Stamm has not yet distributed a draft EAC position for member review. He thinks the developer provided neighbors with environmental impact information.

C. Super Wawa: The Zoning Hearing Board voted to approve the zoning variances requested by the applicant with numerous conditions. The EAC hopes to help shape the development regarding environmental concerns as part of the land development process.

6. New Business:

A. Draft Zoning Ordinance: Mr. Stamm noted a new Zoning Ordinance is under review by the Board of Commissioners. Several community outreach meetings have been held. At Mr. Stamm's inquiry, Ms. Gibson indicated that comments from those meetings are being compiled. The EAC can utilize EPA information on local government zoning to formulate environmental recommendations.

B. M4 District Zoning Ordinance: Mr. Stamm reported a proposal for M4 Zoning will be presented to the Board of Commissioners at its May 21, 2014 meeting.

C. Tookany/Tacony-Frankford Watershed (TTFW) Partnership Milestones: At Ms. Rosenberg's inquiry, Ms. Gibson said she and the Township Manager would be attending the event. Ms. De Angel added that TTFW was hosting a cleanup event in Philadelphia on May 31 and that she will soon be working for the organization.

7. **Adjournment:** Mr. Ahrens made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. Rosenberg. The motion was unanimously approved, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Bryan T. Havir
Township Manager

Submitted by
Nancy K. Gibson
Public Information Officer

CHELTENHAM TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL- April2014

Committee: Communication Committee

Liaison to the Council: Kurt Ahrens

Date of last meeting: unknown

Date of next meeting: TBD

Questions for the Council:

- Should we use Twitter? If so, we should have a policy governing its use, so that we and the township government understand the purpose of that medium.
- How to focus on “Community Engagement,” especially in regard to our communications. Should the Newsletter publish letters from residents? Should we solicit feedback on various issues? Sustainable Cherry Hill (NJ) has a non-governmental, nonprofit organization; should we actively encourage the development of a similar entity to shepherd the Sustainability Plan in Cheltenham?

Action Items Completed:

- Constant Contact account access given to Kurt for Newsletter publication and distribution
- Twitter account access given to Kurt for Community Engagement (Policy needed)
- Township email address set up for forwarding Newsletter responses (requests to be on mailing list, etc.) EACnewsletter@cheltenham-township.org

Action Items In-progress/Pending:

- Need to convene a new Communication Committee
- Twitter is a popular social networking medium that relies on messages (“tweets”) of up to 140 typewritten characters, which can include links to additional online content. Recipients of these messages are self-selecting in that they have chosen to “follow” specific users of Twitter. The Cheltenham EAC (@cheltenhamec) currently has 18 followers. Twitter policy proposal:

The Cheltenham EAC will use Twitter to provide an additional avenue for Community Engagement in pursuit of Sustainability and to augment the Council’s mandate to provide relevant, timely and accurate information in regard to environmental issues. Specifically, the EAC will generate original “tweets” with information on current and upcoming Township events pertaining to Sustainability or other environmental concerns. In addition, educational information pertaining to the goals of the Township’s Sustainability Plan will be “tweeted,” from time to time. When neighboring communities or partner organizations (e.g., Tookany-Tacony Frankford Watershed Partnership) “tweet” announcements of sustainability-related events that may be of interest to Cheltenham residents, the EAC may “retweet” that information to its “followers.” Finally, the Cheltenham EAC Twitter account will not be used for dissemination of communications of a purely social or political nature. Under no

circumstances will information of a sensitive nature (i.e., that which could pose a security risk or be deemed confidential) be sent via Twitter.

- May EAC Newsletter to be circulated for final comments and additions from EAC members before publication. Here is an outline:

EAC Sustainable Cheltenham May 2014 Newsletter notes

In This Issue

Announcements

Welcome new EAC members
new format--love to have feedback, come to EAC meetings
what is the EAC anyway (how to get involved)

Upcoming Events

Sustainability Festival (link?)
Showcase and Awards

Features

Earth Day Projects
TTF Riparian Buffer Planting
May Flowers--Can we live without Invasive Species?
PSA
Silent Invasion link

Column

What is Sustainability? (Overview+Community Engagement)

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 (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 26th & 27th.
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 26th). 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 GreenTreds 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.

May 19, 2014, 7:30 p.m.
Richard Wall Carriage House

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)
BIRDING 101 at BRIAR BUSH NATURE CENTER Sat, March 1, 8th & 15th, 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)
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-

May 2014

Committee: Schools Committee

Liaison to the Council: Lorna Rosenberg

Date of last meeting: April 2014

Date of next meeting: June 2014 (after the AIP Sustainable Cheltenham Festival)

Questions for the board/larger group:

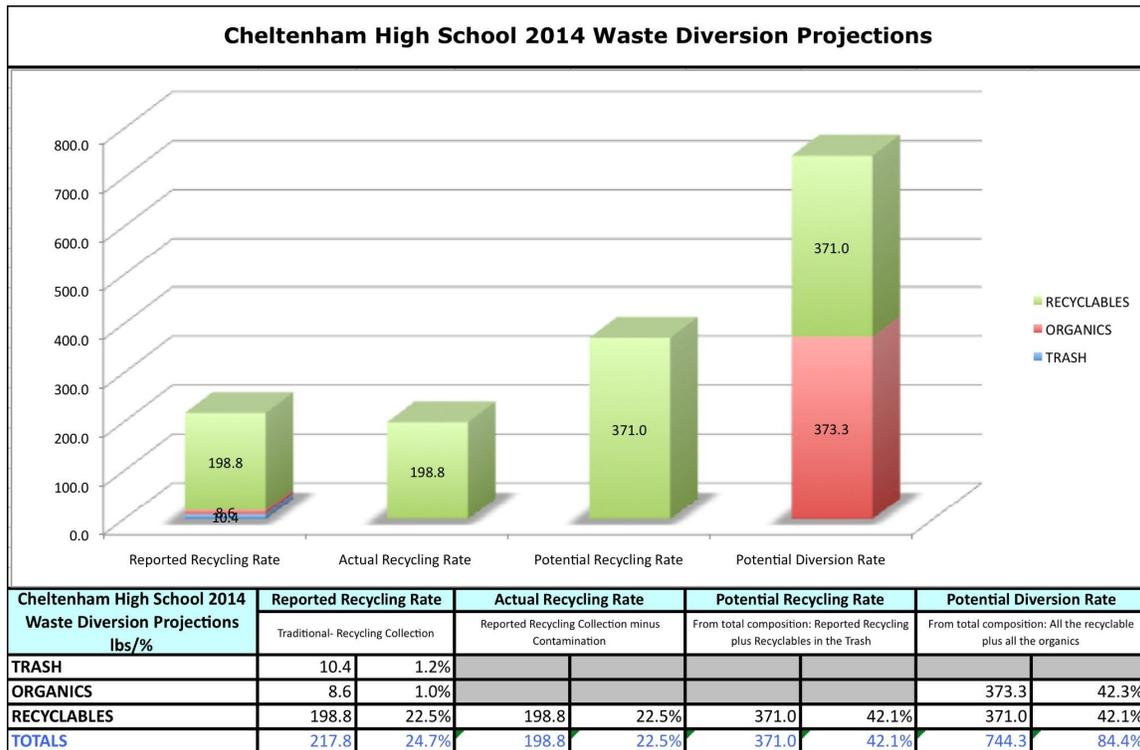
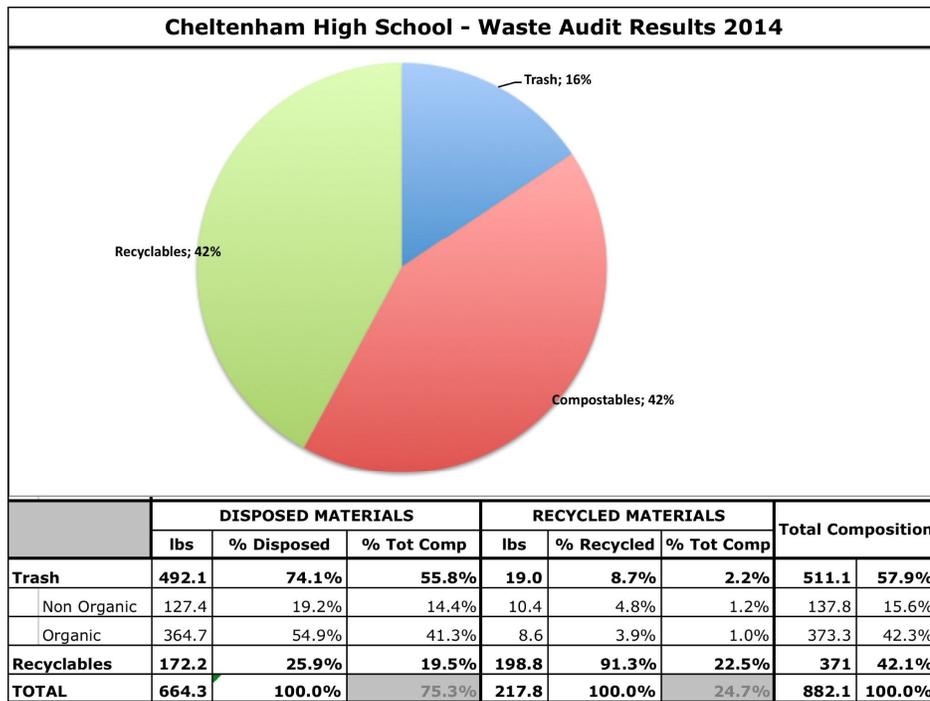
- What is the best way for the School District to engage sustainability into their learning?
- Ancillea Assumpta and Myers will be Sustainable Cheltenham School Winners for 2014

Action Items Completed:

- All Cheltenham SD schools will be represented at AIP featuring Sustainable Cheltenham!
- Ancillea Assumpta Academy will also be represented – with solar power, green purchasing and recycling!
- Architect and partners visited Cheltenham Elementary School on May 6 to review the sustainable features of the school with Marilyn Golden the challenge teacher – this was the first of other sessions we hope will happen with staff as well.
- Ancillea Assumpta and Myers will be SC

Cheltenham High School

- Completed a waste audit of the recycling and trash at Cheltenham HS. The preliminary results are in from NICHE Recycling, Maurice Sampson. From the charts below, much more of the waste could be recycled or composted with a more rigorous recycling program. Students will be discussing by the end of May. See attached info.



Action Items In-progress/Pending:

May 19, 2014, 7:30 p.m.
Richard Wall Carriage House

School Board: Still working on a green policy to guide over all green activities and strategic planning for CHS, the Administration building, EP and Cedarbrook.