

The meeting of the Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) was held tonight. Members present were Yuri Berg, Linda Foggie, Brad Pransky and Lorna Rosenberg, Ex-Officio members were Doryan De Angel, Chris Edelstein and Beth Yount. Guest present was Ethan Chebot-Goldman. 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. Members discussed an email they received from the Cheltenham Township Board President that criticized the EAC for not sufficiently involving the Commissioners in Sustainable Cheltenham at Arts in the Park. Although some members were upset by the criticism directed at volunteers who contributed so many hours to making the inaugural event a major success, others thought it prudent to request clearer guidelines from Township staff about any required protocol for involving the Commissioners in the future and move forward. Based on input from the committee members, the Ms. Rosenberg will craft a response.
3. **Acceptance of Meeting Minutes:** Ms. Rosenberg made a motion to accept the minutes of May 19, 2014 meeting; seconded by Mr. Berg. The motion was unanimously approved.

4. **Committee Reports:**

A. *Communications and Engagement Committee:* Mr. Ahrens was not present to give his report (see attached). Ms. Gibson reported that the Public Works Committee reviewed last month's EAC Twitter policy with the Township Solicitor, who is now drafting a social media policy to exclude all citizen committees from establishing their own social media venues such as Twitter and Facebook, etc. However, as the Township moves forward to establishing a Township-wide Facebook venue and possibly a Twitter account later this year; all citizen committee news can be incorporated under the Township's account. The Township is waiting

for a social media policy with recommendations from the Delaware Valley Insurance Trust, which should be completed in June or July.

B. Water and Ecology Committee: Ms. Duffy was not present to give her report (see attached), but it featured a request for Tom McHugh to attend the Army Corps of Engineers Steering Committee meeting in her place on July 1 at 10:00 a.m. at the Township Administration Building. Unfortunately, Mr. McHugh was not present either.

C. School Board Liaison Committee: Ms. Rosenberg submitted her report (see attached). She plans to meet with new School Superintendent Dr. Natalie Thomas to see if sustainable concepts can be interjected into common core curriculum.

D. Energy and Emissions Committee: No report.

5. Old Business:

A. Review of Sustainable Cheltenham at Arts in the Park – Ms. Rosenberg reported that, after months of planning and meetings, Sustainable Cheltenham at Arts in the Park was a great success. The EAC met its fund-raising objective, which helped the Friends of High School Park (FHSP) surpass their fund-raising goal for the annual event. Ms. Rosenberg reported that FHSP were pleased with the EAC participation in terms of increased attendance and sponsorship and have offered to partner on other events. Ms. Rosenberg added that students handed out sustainable information and interacted with the crowds. Participants were surveyed on what sustainable activities they would like to see done. Students from the various Cheltenham schools presented their sustainability projects on tri-fold displays, which were later delivered to the schools for display.

Ms. Gibson thought the event could not have been better. The weather was ideal, the “nature wall” featuring the award-winners’ projects was great, and the many other activities with

sustainable themes gave the event a larger purpose. Ms. Gibson did observe that more volunteers would have been helpful.

Ms. De Angel asked for reimbursement for the Sustainable Award project posters that were printed for the event. Mr. Pransky made a motion to approve the amount of \$36.96 for reimbursement of printing costs; seconded by Ms. Rosenberg. The motion was unanimously approved. Ms. Rosenberg also noted that Sustainable Cheltenham Award winners would be recognized at the June 18 Board of Commissioners meeting.

B. 1900 Ashbourne Road: Ms. Foggie noted that the developer had finished its presentation and made an arrangement with Lynnewood Gardens, so it is no longer protesting the proposal. Mr. Pransky detailed strong reasons for preferring commercial over residential development in the community. The continued hearing will be held after the next Board of Commissioners meeting on June 18, 2014 and will likely continue past that date. Ms. Rosenberg commented that Mr. Stamm recommended against the EAC taking a position on the matter.

C. Discussion of Draft Zoning Ordinance - Ms. Gibson noted that comments from the series of public meetings on the Draft Zoning Ordinance were pending for placement on the Township website.

D. Update on Elkins Estate - Mr. Pransky gave a brief history of the site and the proposed changes planned if M4 Zoning District is established. A public hearing on the matter will be scheduled in August.

6. New Business:

A. Ms. Gibson asked if the EAC would like a table at the Harvest Festival on October 11, 2014. Ms. Rosenberg indicated that the EAC plans to attend the event.

B. Ms. Rosenberg noted that EAC representatives will meet with the Township Manager on June 23, 2014 to discuss Sustainability Goal Implementation.

7. Announcements: Mr. Pransky noted that the Cheltenham Police Department will no longer capture and/or relocate nuisance wildlife such as groundhogs.

8. Adjournment: Mr. Rosenberg made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. Foggie. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.



Bryan T. Havir
Township Manager

Submitted by:
Nancy K. Gibson
Public Information Officer

CHELTENHAM TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL- June2014

Committee: Communication Committee

Liaison to the Council: Kurt Ahrens

Date of last meeting: June 1st, 2014

Date of next meeting: TBD

Questions for the Council:

- 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? (that is one of the sub-goals of Community Engagement)
- Can we include a section in each Committee Report that includes items to be published in the Newsletter? Note this needs to be available early enough that I can send the Newsletter out prior to the EAC Meeting, each month.

Action Items Completed:

- May EAC Newsletter was sent to 1131 email addresses (although some people may receive it at multiple addresses), with 404 recipients opening the message (multiple openings by the same recipient are not counted). 212 email addresses "bounced." Some of these were easily identified as typos and corrected. About 30 new subscribers were added to the mailing list from the Sustainability Festival Guest Book.
- Twitter Report: We have made a total of 21 Tweets, and we now have 36 followers (including the Pacific Islands division of the National Park Service, among others)
- Visitor concerns and comments from EAC booth at Sustainability Festival transcribed by Natalie Hursky (Thanks!)

Action Items In-progress/Pending:

- Discuss visitor concerns and comments from EAC booth at Sustainability Festival and consider forwarding summary of resident concerns to the Board of Commissioners:

What actions do YOU NOW practice that are sustainable?

- √√ Recycling more!
- √√ Changed all bulbs to LED's
- CSA share
- √√√√ Composting + gardening!! ☺

- √ Learned about meadow monitoring and adopted a plot at HS Park!
- √ Kitchen garden
- Wormery! lots of castings
- native plantings to support wildlife
- Use Re-usable bags at grocery
- Hang wash out to dry on clotheslines in backyard
- In winter drape over radiators and stair rails – and clothes rack
- Put in Energy Star & ADA appliances
- Expanded my vegetable garden in 2013 – This year I'm planting different vegetables and some berries
- Taking train & walking more instead of driving

What sustainable practices would YOU LIKE TO ADOPT? (more biking, composting, healthy eating.....)

- √√√√√ Ride my bike more (but don't feel safe on Chelt roads.)
- √√ Bike paths to all schools and through all neighborhoods – less buses!
- √√√ Yes! Bike paths! Road Markers! Established Routes
- √ Vegetable Garden
- √ Backyard Chickens
- √ Composting
- Put in butterfly garden
- √ Continue to eradicate invasive plants
- Timed Traffic lights so bikers don't have to run red lights or wait for cars

What Sustainable changes would like our Township to adopt?

- Police vehicles that are more appropriate for twp use & are consequently more fuel efficient.
- √ “No Volcano Mulch” Policy
- * √ More “Green” infrastructure to hold stormwater
- √ Partner more w/ Institutions/Businesses to increase their help in adopting creeks near their properties (esp. adding trees, scrubs (sic) & doing cleanups.)
- √ Train Park Maintenance staff to adopt better practices for maintaining park lands esp. near creeks.
- √√√√ More bike paths to connect greenways & schools.
- Collect compost from residents + use in green places
- Recycle Alkaline batteries
- √ Free Cycle drop off/pick up
- √ More education/awareness about chemical use & less lawns -> harm to environment.
- √ Adopt more open space & promote more open space in to-be developed properties
- Collect waste cooking oil/grease
- Participate in take back drug days (Chelt. Police Dept.)
- Haz waste collection (not on a Saturday)

√ BE MORE PEDESTRIAN-FRIENDLY – Sidewalks, stop signs, turning arrow's, IT'S SAFER TOO.

Battery Recycling in weekly recycling pickup

√ Garden Plant Exchange

More sidewalks & bike lanes!

- June EAC Newsletter in progress; content from other EAC members welcome! Here is the outline:

EAC Sustainable Cheltenham June 2014 Newsletter notes

In This Issue

Announcements

@CheltenhamEAC on Twitter

DVRPC request for comments on TIP

Bill Mettler's energy usage project

Upcoming Events

EAC Meeting

TTF Calendar link

Friends of High School Park Workday Weekends link

Recent Events

Sustainability Festival and Awards

TTF StreamKeeper introductory meeting

Features

Invasive Species?

PSA

Column

What is Sustainability? (Community Engagement Continued)

CHELTENHAM ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL- June 16, 2014

Committee: Water & Ecology

Liaison to the Council: Barbara Duffy

Date of last meeting: May 13, 2014

Date of next meeting: July, 2014

Questions for the board/larger group:

- Can Tom attend Army Corp Steering Committee meeting in my place on July 1st at 10am (TWP Building)?

Action Items Completed:

- "Arts in the Park" featuring Sustainable Cheltenham (Sunday, June 1st) was a wonderful success.

Action Items In-progress/Pending:

- **Flooding Projects (DEP & Army Corps)** – Upcoming Steering Committee meeting on July 1st at 10am at Twp Building to review Tookany Creek Watershed Flood Reduction Feasibility Study and prepare for upcoming
- **Tree Vitalize Planting Project** – Last phase of Parkview Park planting–planting targeted for end of Oct or beginning of November. Consultant has requested that EAC organize an invasive cut back in early summer to prep the site. (No date has been set.)
- **TTF Partnership-** we welcomed new Upstream Municipal Watershed Coordinator, Jon Musselman, whose focus will be stormwater & education, at the AIP event. Jon will be at our next W&E meeting to meet the committee. TTF would also like to take a Cheltenham creek tour during the summer, so this will be planned soon too.
- **TTF Trash Task Force** – looking at other nationwide municipalities and how they have decreased trash in the stormwater systems and creeks.
- **Curtis Arboretum Master Plan-** Boucher & James' surveyors have completed the mapping information for Curtis so the committee can use an accurate base map. Nancy has developed a list of park sites and related information for the steering committee to review and visit this summer for visioning for the Curtis master plan.
- **Public Works & Parks Superintendent** - 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.
- **America in Bloom-** No update on the beautifying of the Elkins Park Town Centre, including the train station and shopping/dining area.
- **Native Plant Ordinance** (still pending)

Announcements:

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

- **Workday Weekends-** June 28 & 29th from 10 to Noon (Repeats Every 2 Weeks until November 1, 2014) Help steward this great park! Wear long sleeves, pants and a hat.

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

CHELTENHAM TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL-
June 2014

Committee: Schools Committee

Liaison to the Council: Lorna Rosenberg

Date of last meeting: April 2014

Date of next meeting: **June/ July2014** (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?
- How best to use the LEED buildings as a learning tool.

Action Items Completed:

- All Cheltenham SD schools except Wyncote were represented at AIP featuring Sustainable Cheltenham!
- Students from Cedarbrook conducted a survey of visitors to Arts in the Park about their involvement in goals of the Sustainability Plan.
- Bridget Rose another Cedarbrook student established the bike corral at Arts in the Park with her mom Lisa Donahue, monitored the bikes and collected data from the bikers to the event determining "GHG" saved.
- Myers and Ancillae Assumpta will be recognized by the commissioners at the monthly Commissioners meeting on June 18@ 7:30!
- The school sustainability posters from Arts in the Park were delivered to Dwight Nolt, head of education for the school district to be displayed in the Administration bldg. lobby over the summer
- A meeting has been scheduled with Dr. Thomas on July 10 to discuss sustainability education in the District
- The School District and community of Cheltenham have decided 5-8th grade will be the new school configuration in one building

Cheltenham High School

- Completed a waste audit of the recycling and trash at Cheltenham HS. A final discussion of the data was held with the students on May 28. They concluded that wasted food was the most significant volume in the school trash. The reason for this is that the food wasted was not desirable except for hoagies which the students really like and don't waste. This information is being finalized by the consultant.

- Hopefully, in July, Nissim Lebovitz will make a presentation on the findings to the CHS principal and the School Board.

Action Items In-progress/Pending:

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.