

The meeting of the Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) was held tonight. Members present were Kurt Ahrens, Yuri Berg, Barbara Duffy, Tom McHugh, Brad Pransky and Lorna Rosenberg. Ex-Officio members present were Earl Stamm and Beth Yount. 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.

Ms. Rosenberg and the EAC members congratulated Barbara Duffy on her recent recognition by the Board of Commissioners for her contributions to the EAC and the Sustainability Plan.

**2. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes:** Ms. Duffy made a motion to accept the minutes of June 16, 2014 meeting; seconded by Ms. Rosenberg. The motion was unanimously approved.

**3. Committee Reports:**

*A. Communications and Engagement Committee:* Mr. Ahrens reported that he attended the July Public Affairs Committee Meeting (PAC) to express his concern regarding the proposed resolution barring all additional use of social media by any Township department [except for the Fire Department and Library System] or citizen committees. Mr. Ahrens argued that the use of social media would promote community engagement, which is one of the ten (10) goals of the Cheltenham Sustainability Plan. Mr. McHugh complimented Mr. Ahrens on his presentation at the PAC meeting. Mr. Pransky commented that he thought the Township Staff has been working on guidelines for use of social media. Ms. Gibson confirmed that social media has been discussed at several Staff meetings. Mr. Ahrens made mention of another town in the State of Washington where social media is used by citizen committees. Ms. Gibson stated that the Township is also awaiting administrative policy recommendations and guidelines for use of social media that address municipal liability concerns by the end of the month from the Delaware

Valley Insurance Trust. Mr. Ahrens reported that the discussion on social media was tabled at the PAC meeting until further research is gathered.

Mr. Ahrens reported that the EAC e-newsletter is opened by 40% of recipients according to Constant Contact, which according to the e-mail marketing company is above average. Twenty-five (25) people joined Twitter after the link appeared in the last newsletter. Mr. Ahrens noted that it is his intent to get the EAC Newsletter out prior to each EAC meeting.

B. *Water and Ecology Committee*: Ms. Duffy reported (see attached) nineteen (19) volunteers participated on the June 19, 2014 Parkview Park cutback. Ms. Duffy noted that the contractor hired to apply herbicide treatment following the cutback had concerns about the Township's Herbicide Policy, specifically about the timeframe of the cutback and the types of herbicides (Glyphosate) and surfactants (Rodeo) that should be utilized. Ms. Duffy reported that it was decided to move forward with the current policy for this project and monitor the results for problems or failures. The policy can then be evaluated based on the evidence. Meanwhile, Ms. Duffy will review the herbicide policy because she suspects some information may have been omitted from the policy in response to concerns expressed by constituents outside the Township when the policy was being adopted. The Parkview Park Planting is scheduled for October 25, 2014 from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Ms. Duffy announced the film, *Water Blues/Green Solutions*, will be featured at the Tower of Wyncote Clubhouse on August 7, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. sponsored by Tookany/Tacony-Frankford Watershed Partnership.

Ms. Duffy asked Mr. McHugh to attend the Army Corps of Engineers Steering Committee meeting in her place on August 12, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. at the Township Administration Building.

*C. School Liaison Committee:* Ms. Rosenberg submitted her report (see attached). Ms. Rosenberg and Mr. Edelstein met with School Superintendent Dr. Natalie Thomas and Director of Education Dwight Nolt on July 10, 2014 to try to build on the School District's sustainable projects and successes of 2013. Dr. Thomas indicated that she would like to see a model where each school becomes centers of excellence in an area that they are interested in pursuing. Ms. Rosenberg has scheduled a meeting with Mr. Barmatti, newly hired director of special projects, on July 23, 2014 to discuss opportunities for the EAC to help with input or networking. Also, Meyers Elementary School will receive an award for the Green Ambassadors Program.

Mr. McHugh commented on educational problems on *climate change* in states like Oklahoma and Wyoming. He added that possible federal legislation may prohibit the Department of Defense from considering climate change. Mr. Ahrens suggested some segments of population resist accepting climate change data because they are afraid of top down government and prefer self-sufficiency. Mr. Pransky noted that this is also an economic issue and no one is trying to find balance. Mr. Stamm commented that this is a complicated issue and although primarily scientific, it is political and economic. Ms. Rosenberg asked if the EAC should host a public forum on the topic of sustainability and the science of climate change. Members commented that the forum should be educational not in debate format. Suggestions for speakers included Dr. Hansen, formerly of Columbia University, and John Byrne, professor from the University of Delaware.

Ms. Gibson asked members if the "idling" campaign developed by Myers Elementary School students as part of the Green Ambassadors Program should be posted on the sustainability resource webpage. Following discussion, the unanimous consensus was to post it.

*D. Energy and Emissions Committee:* Mr. McHugh reported that he is currently seeking information from a company that might help the Township easily secure bids for natural gas and electricity that include a certain percentage of clean renewable energy. The energy consultant promises one-stop shopping for clients (municipalities) called reverse auctions where utility providers bid for municipal accounts. The energy consultant gets a finders fee from suppliers who are successful in the auction. Mr. Ahrens asked what prevents the Township from doing the same. Mr. Pransky thought that municipalities ask vendors to give bids within each municipality's budget, including 20% clean renewable.

**4. Old Business:**

*A. 1900 Ashbourne Road* - Mr. Stamm noted that the public hearing concluded on June 30, 2014. A written decision is being prepared by the Board of Commissioners and will be rendered at its August 20, 2014 meeting. Lengthy discussion ensued about the process.

*B. Discussion of Draft Zoning Ordinance (DZO)* – Mr. Stamm noted that he was told that the comments from the series of public meetings would be posted on the Township's website and he had not seen them. Ms. Gibson replied that the comments are on the Township website on the same page as the proposed DZO. Mr. Stamm asked who was considering the comments. Mr. Pransky stated that the Board of Commissioners has appointed an ad hoc zoning review committee, which will begin meeting next week. It will review the comments to consider recommending adjustments and modifications to the proposed DZO. He added that all current land development proposals, such as the Super Wawa, must use existing zoning code. Mr. Pransky stated that sustainability is addressed in every section of the proposed DZO. Additionally, the DZO must fit in the Township's Comprehensive Plan. Mr. McHugh suggested incorporating a sustainability bonus for developers who choose two or three environmental/

sustainable options. He also thought that changing the zoning of Cedarbrook Middle School from residential to commercial might be unfair to neighboring properties. Mr. Stamm recommended the EAC review the entire zoning code. He volunteered to cover some sections. Ms. Rosenberg suggested using an EPA evaluation tool (checklist) that covers sustainability issues to review entire DZO.

*C. Update on Elkins Estate* - Mr. Pransky gave a brief history of the site and the proposed changes planned if M4 Zoning District is established. Mr. Pransky noted that the developer will be present at the next Planning Commission meeting to be held on July 28, 2014. A public hearing is scheduled on August 5, 2014 on the M4 District Ordinance.

*D. Status of Township policy on Citizen Committee input to the ZHB.* Ms. Gibson stated that the protocol is for citizen committees to make a request to the Building and Zoning Committee for authority to have the committee chair (representative) testify on behalf the committee before the Zoning Hearing Board on certain issues. Members pointed out that the ordinance that established the EAC states it is to advise the Board of Commissioners and other citizen committees, boards, etc. so they believed the Building and Zoning Committee's permission should not be required. Ms. Gibson noted the ordinance specified other citizen "advisory" boards. The Zoning Hearing Board is not an advisory board; it has authority independent of the Board of Commissioners. Mr. Stamm thought that the EAC should give it a try.

*E. Township protocol for including Commissioners in Committee events* – Ms. Gibson informed members that the protocol is to invite/notify the Board of Commissioners at least two weeks in advance of a planned event and that the invitation must first be approved by the

Township Manager. Ms. Rosenberg stated that she would like to have the complete protocol printed on Township letterhead.

*F. Publication of a Status Report for Sustainable Cheltenham* – Ms. Rosenberg is working on data collected from the Arts in the Park event, such as attendance, bike corral statistics and responses to questionnaires. The questionnaire identified safe bicycle routes as a top issue of concern to the community.

*G. Harvest Festival* - Ms. Rosenberg indicated that the EAC plans to attend the event and will begin working on plans for the October event.

*H. Municipal Action Plan* - Ms. Rosenberg stated that she and Mr. Berg met with the Township Manager on June 23, 2014 to discuss Sustainability Goal Implementation, specifically the Municipal Action Plan (MAP). Mr. Havar would like recommendations (see attached) from the EAC on the efforts from the MAP that the Township could try to implement in 2014-15.

**5. New Business:**

*A. Consideration of Cancellation August 18, 2014 EAC Meeting.* Members noted that many other citizen committees do not meet every month during the summer. Ms. Gibson noted what months the various citizen committees do not convene. Several members indicated that they would be unavailable for an August meeting. Mr. Pransky made a motion to cancel the EAC August 18, 2014 meeting; seconded by Mr. Berg and unanimously accepted.

**6. Announcements:**

*A. Growing Greener Grant Application for Watershed Cleaning Pilot Program* - The Philadelphia Water Department filed a grant for street sweeping, including Cheltenham Township as one of its partners. Ms. Gibson indicated that if the grant is awarded, Cheltenham

Township Public Works would provide additional street cleaning in selected areas around the Township in an effort to reduce litter from entering waterways.

B. *Route 611 Transportation Study* – Members noted that Route 611 Transportation Study documents were e-mailed to the EAC on July 15, 2014. Mr. McHugh stated that he had attended the meeting. He noted that traffic calming elements for Cheltenham include safe road walkway crossings. Mr. Berg noted that all zones but Zone 1 (Cheltenham) have bike lanes. Ms. Duffy thought a message should be sent to PennDOT about no concrete medians. Ms. Gibson reminded EAC members to send comments to the Township Manager's office as indicated in his e-mail.

C. *DCNR's Tree Vitalize/PHS Spring 2015 Planting Season* - This program provides municipalities with 10 to 100 bare root trees for planting in community open space areas. Mr. Havir would like to apply for some trees, pending budgetary constraints. Both Parry and Perley bird sanctuaries were proposed as sites for possible trees to replace previous plantings that failed. Mr. McHugh made a motion to support the filing of the Tree Vitalize grant for additional trees; seconded by Ms. Rosenberg and unanimously accepted.

**7. Adjournment:** Mr. Ahrens made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Pransky. The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.



Bryan T. Havir  
Township Manager

Submitted by:  
Kathy McDevitt



## 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 1<sup>st</sup> at 10am (TWP Building)?

### **Action Items Completed:**

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

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

- **Flooding Projects (DEP & Army Corps)** – Upcoming Steering Committee meeting on July 1<sup>st</sup> 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 & 29<sup>th</sup> 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-**  
**July 2014**

**Committee:** Schools Committee

**Liaison to the Council:** Lorna Rosenberg

**Date of last meeting:** July 9, 2014

**Date of next meeting:** August, 2014

**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:**

- Chris Edelstein and Lorna Rosenberg met with Dr. Thomas Superintendent and Dwight Nolt, Director of Education about next steps for sustainability in the school district. ( See memo attached)
- July 23, all of the Schools committee is invited to join Lorna Rosenberg and Lisa Donahue to meet with Matt Barmucci, Director of Special Projects, newly hired at the school district to discuss sustainability
- Myers Green Ambassadors won a Youth Award from the National Liberty Museum for their work on recycling and anti-idling. Presentation being made on August 6 at the National Liberty Museum.
- Steel structure on Wyncote Elementary is being erected.

**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.

List of Sustainable Action Items for Cheltenham Township to select from  
the 2013 Municipal Action Plan

July 14, Yuri Burg and Lorna Rosenberg met with Bryan Havir and Nancy Gibson to discuss possible action items the Township would be willing to adopt from the Sustainable Cheltenham: Municipal Action Plan.

In reviewing the plan, it was clear that the EAC and the Township have already made significant progress in the area of Community Engagement.

We discussed other ways the various Township Departments can engage, however, the Township Manager asked for us to create a list of low/cost, no/cost actions from the plan that the EAC believes are priorities then the Township will choose 2-3 new actions for the EAC to track and report on.

Yuri and Lorna created the list below, based on the Cheltenham Municipal Action Plan. The Township will choose 2-3 to accomplish by 2015 calendar year. <http://cheltenham.municipalcms.com/docview.aspx?docid=12915>

Energy

1. Reduce the usage of GHG-producing land maintenance equipment.
  - a. Obtain sheep or goats for lawn maintenance at Curtis as a pilot program (Upper Dublin and Upper Merion have this)
  - b. Create and train staff on "Low mow/ No Mow" locations in the Township to reduce areas that need mowing.
2. Reduce Energy Demands on Township Buildings
  - a. Review energy audit reports from Paul Speigel of Practical Energy to identify actions from the buildings he analyzed.

Mobility

1. Continue to shift from conventional vehicles to electric, hybrid or renewable
  - a. Plug-in electric car for the Township administration
3. Encourage residents to walk and bike to township meetings to school and throughout
  - a. Install bike racks in Township commercial centers, libraries and properties
5. Train Township personnel on proper fleet use to help conserve fuel and reduce GHG
  - a. Bring in a consultant to train staff on efficient driving of Township vehicles
7. Pass ordinances and install signage to reduce vehicle idling
  - a. EAC can work with the Township on an anti-idling campaign with more signage and info

Waste Management

4. Adopt a "green purchasing" policy
  - a. EAC to work with Staff on purchasing criteria
5. When reporting recycling data compare Cheltenham's collection to regional or national average collections.

Ecological Stewardship

6. Continue to work to naturalize municipal – owned land
  - a. Create demonstration rain gardens, bioswales etc on Township property as a demonstration- seek funding from PA DEP

Sustainable Development

2. Codes and land development ordinances can be aligned with sustainability goals – EAC / Township effort