

The regular meeting of the Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) was held tonight. Voting members present were: Barbara Duffy, Daryl Carrington, Mary Beth Carroll, Bill Mettler, Lorna Rosenberg and David Schultz. Also present were ex-officio member Jonathan Essoka. Other interested public in attendance was: Tom McHugh. Staff present was Bryan T. Havir, Assistant Township Manager.

1. **Call to Order** – Mr. Schultz called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

2. **Acceptance of Meeting Minutes** – Mr. Schultz asked for a motion to approve the March 21, 2011 meeting minutes. Ms. Carroll made a motion to approve the March 21st meeting minutes as submitted; seconded by Ms. Duffy. The motion was unanimously approved.

3. **Committee Reports -**

A. Watershed Committee – Ms. Duffy reported on the following:

- Ms. Duffy reported that flyers will be circulated this week for the **2011 Cheltenham Community Earth Day Festival** which is scheduled for May 14, 2011 at Cedarbrook Middle School from noon to 3:00 p.m. There will be “tent talks” or mini-classes on Beekeeping, Raising Chickens, Basic Bike Repair and Rain Barrels. There will be a MS-4 Watershed Quiz for children on the back of the flyer. When children return the flyer, they will receive candy. Ms. Duffy accepted offers from Transition Town and possibly Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) sharing a table at the event.
- Earth Day Project Activities are scheduled for April 30 and May 1, 2011. There are 13 community sites for projects which are posted on the Township website. (see attached report).

Ms. Duffy noted that she, Ms. Rosenberg and Mr. Schultz attended the PEC Conference at Villanova University on April 9, 2011. Ms. Duffy attended a workshop on Greenway Bike Paths sponsored by Natural Lands Trust. Discussion ensued on safe bike routes for High School Students, planning and funding resources. Ms. Rosenberg participated on a panel on Buildings/Local Business.

B. Energy Committee – Mr. Mettler reported on the following: (see attached report)

- Five Action Groups have created projects to reduce reliance on fossil fuels within the Township;

- Local Food
- Trails & Transit
- Local Economy
- Local Energy
- Zero Waste

The EAC Energy Committee is looking for ways to publicize this information.

Mr. Mettler announced that the Local Food Action Group will be presenting a Perma-Blitz on May 15, 2011 at 131 Woodland Road, Wyncote, PA for gardeners where a kitchen garden will be installed using “sheet mulching....a garden without digging.

C. Transportation Committee – Mr. McHugh noted the committee is actively working to support efforts of the Cresheim Trail Committee, Cheltenham Township Sustainability Committee, Transition Cheltenham, and continue to attend DVRPC RCC meetings (see attached report).

D. Buildings Committee – Ms. Rosenberg noted that the recycling program in the School District continues to move ahead. A Recycling “Green Week” program is scheduled for May 2-6 with School District recycler robot presentation on May 6. Ms. Rosenberg is working on getting a pro-bono structural engineering evaluation of the Cheltenham High School Annex. A student power point presentation on a green roof will be available on May 2. (see attached report).

E. Communications Committee – Ms. Carroll presented some website design ideas to the EAC which are divided by categories: Building Green, Learning Green, Our Green Habitat, Eating Green, Getting around Green and Green Civics. (see attached report). The Township website will have links to other websites. The EAC will provide recommended links for the EAC web page. Ms. Rosenberg suggested adding a disclaimer. Mr. Schultz suggested that we consider hosting a green building directory. Mr. Mettler has a map of SEPTA bus routes which was recommended to be placed on the website. This map could be very useful scanned or interactive. Mr. Schultz also suggested having information on LEED certified buildings. Additionally, the EAC would like to have a green corner button link on the Township website homepage. It was noted by Ms. Carroll that Ms.

Gibson would have to research this with the consultant and see how it can be integrated into the template already approved for the homepage. Discussion continued regarding the website adding information and links over time; links from members regarding watershed issues, Transition Town issues, transportation issues, green building related issues: solar panel installations in the Township or state licensing, self certification process, buying green, promoting business in Township and Green Steps referral and relationships. etc.). If anyone has further input, please contact Ms. Carroll. It is anticipated that the newly designed website will be launched by the end of May.

4. *Old Business:*

A. EAC Vision Statement – Mr. Essoka continued the discussion on the development of a vision statement by explaining the objective, using keywords, and ideas based on discussion from the last meeting. (see attached report). Mr. Schultz liked items 6 and 8. Ms. Rosenberg thought the vision statement should be illustrative of the EAC objectives.. Ms. Duffy asked where the vision statement would appear and how would it be used. Ms. Carroll questioned the development of a vision statement when the Township Code provides provisions for the EAC to uphold. Mr. Essoka reiterated that the vision statement is not telling what to do but rather outlines a framework for what we are working toward.

Mr. Essoka thanked the members for their input and he will put their comments and suggestions together for review and continued discussion at the next EAC meeting. Please send additional thoughts to Mr. Essoka at jessoka@verizon.net.

B. Energy Works – A presentation is scheduled for Wednesday, April 27, 2011 at Curtis Hall at 6:30 p.m. There will be a panel discussion and 15 minute power point presentation by: The panel will include: Bill Mettler, David Schultz, Lorna Rosenberg, Alia Agoglia and Tecce Shinn, Tonya Morris. A raffle will include a free energy audit. A flyer was prepared for distribution via e-mail.

C. Township Sustainability Plan - Mr. Havar reported that the Board of Commissioners is working with Montgomery County Planning Commission on a proposed schedule and meeting structure for the Township Sustainability Plan. The kick-off meeting is proposed for May or June. The composition of the committee members has not been announced yet. It is the intent the plan will take up to eighteen months to complete. Letter of interest and resumes from 28 citizens have been received. When finalized, information will be mailed to the EAC. Mr. McHugh noted that he and Mr. Schultz attended the Public Works Committee where it was decided that the sustainability plan be developed in a two-tier review committee approach, that being a smaller steering committee meeting more often with the consultant to help write the Plan and a general committee meeting perhaps quarterly to review and have input on the work of the steering committee. Each Commissioner would select someone from each ward to serve on the steering committee.

Mr. McHugh said he objected to what was decided regarding the committee structures with 75% of the 28 resumes relegated to the general committee meeting quarterly and 25% of the 28 serving on the steering committee which will meet monthly. Mr. Schultz said that he understood the reasoning for the two-tier committee structure which would include community members and institutions and the broader group passing on decision to smaller group. Discussion ensued. Mr. Mettler thought the discussion was helpful and that he would be meeting with Commissioner Haywood. Mr. Schultz distributed a background paper entitled, "Sustainable Development: "From Brundtland to Rio 2012" for anyone interested in reading. (see attached).

5. New Business -

A. Mr. Havar announced that an upcoming Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) TreeVitalize grant opportunity has become available with a mid June submission deadline and it was suggested that a project include additional planting around the by-pass pipe in Wall Park

Phase II. Mr. Mettler made a motion to recommending filing for a TreeVitalize Grant for Wall Park; seconded by Mr. Carrington. The motion was unanimously approved.

B. Mr. Havar announced that the public planting day at Parkview Park was tentatively selected for Saturday, October 8, 2011 from 9-4 p.m. with a fall back date of October 1, 2011. Ms. Duffy noted that her committee and the consultant are good with that day provided it does not conflict with any high holy days.

6. Other Business -

A. America In Bloom – Mr. Havar advised the EAC that two national judges will be visiting on August 4-5, 2011 to visit and tour the Township. The tour will include visits to High School Park for a potluck dinner and a movie on “Precious Places” which includes three highlights in Cheltenham Township, as well as a visit to community gardens. Mr. Havar suggested the EAC partner with this effort. The EAC concurred.

B. Announcements – Ms. Rosenberg announced that the Bucks County Intermediate Unit will be hosting a Green Futures Sustainability Conference on May 13, 2011.

7. Adjournment – Mr. Schultz made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Mr. Mettler. The meeting was adjourned at 9:47 p.m.



David G. Krayank,
Township Manager

Submitted by:
Kathryn McDevitt

Watershed Committee Report: EAC Meeting April 25, 2011

* Flyers will be going out this week for the **2011 Cheltenham Community Earth Day Festival**. The festival date is **Saturday, May 14th from noon to 3pm at Cedarbrook Middle School**. The focus of the festival will be **"Conserving Resources"**. There will be "Tent Talks" or mini-classes on Beekeeping, Raising Chickens, Basic Bike Repair and Rain barrels. There will also be other vendors to educate the community as well as food and music.

* **Community-wide Earth Day Projects are happening this weekend on April 30th/May 1st**. We have 13 community sites for projects. Attached is the list of sites and this list is posted on the township website. It has gone out in news releases and email blasts. Please join a group! Any questions please contact Barb Duffy at beduff@comcast.net or at 215-885-1506.

***Riparian Corridor Conservation District Ordinance Draft review-** no update at this time. Barbara Duffy will contact the Ad Hoc Zoning Committee and Hanna Mazzaccaro, MontCo Planner to inquire about a time line for moving this draft along.

* **Native Plant ordinance-** Same as last month--this draft ordinance is completed and still needs to move onto the next step, but is on hold due to the focus on the Riparian Corridor Ordinance.

* Attended the PEC Conference at Villanova on Saturday, April 9th.

* Friday, April 22nd visited Streamside Farm at Elkins Estate and met Meei Ling, Farm Director. She took us on a tour of the farm and the stream (Leeches' Run) running near the property. There is hope to plant a riparian area along the stream.

The mission of the Streamside Farm at Elkins Estate is to improve community access to healthy food by growing produce and flowers in a chemical-free, environmentally sustainable manner. They also hope to use the Streamside Farm as an educational tool for raising public awareness about sustainable food systems. You can purchase their produce at the Creekside Co-op Farmers Market every Sunday from 10am - 2pm at High School Park

You can visit their website for more information

www.streamsidefarm.org

[215-606-8428](tel:215-606-8428)

From: wmmettler3@aol.com

To: kmcdevitt@cheltenham-township.org

Subject: 4-25-11 EAC Energy Report

Date: Mon, Apr 25, 2011 6:35 pm

4/25/11

EAC Energy Report

As fossil fuels and nuclear energy become more costly and dangerous, it is the mission of the EAC energy group to discover and promote for our township ways to live comfortably on less and less energy demand. One avenue of endeavor is through the energy reduction affinity groups of Transition Cheltenham:

Five Action Groups have created projects to reduce reliance on fossil fuels withinj our township:

Local Food Action Group: has developed a perma-culture protocol for helping Cheltenham Twp gardeners integrate their gardens and homes with the water and air flow over their land, the sun's path, beneficial insects, plant companions, and the enhanced use of perennials for greater yield and less work. A "Perma-Blitz" will occur at 131 Woodland Rd. Wyncote for aspiring and practicing gradeners--a kitchen garden will be installed using "sheet mulching"...a garden with no digging. *How may we publicize this through the township?*

This team is also working with Arcadia to partner citizens and students in garden plots at Arcadia. The citizens will tend and harvest the gardens during the summer months when the students are away. The Arcadia Environmental Network will connect with Nancy Gibson to put out the invitations to interested citizen-gardeners who would like to grow their own food but do not have a sunny plot of their own.

Trails & Transit Action Group: At the recent EAC Conference, Spencer Finch of the PEC invited me to consider their Safe Routes to Schools funding for our Cheltenham Bike Route Network safe crossings and designated lanes. T&T is following up.

Local Economy Action Group : has developed the *Cheltenham Green Pages* of locally-owned businesses as well as criteria for green businesses. www.transitioncheltenham.org *How might we partner with the township to distribute this information--twp. website?, printing?*

Local Energy Action Group: has created a *Home Greening Guide* and recently a comparison of home heating sources as to cost and efficiency. Natural gas is most economical in today's economy followed closely by geo-thermal (ground source) heat pumps. www.transitioncheltenham.org

Zero Waste Action Group: has developed the *Guide to Zero-Waste in Cheltenham* accessible from TC website: www.transitioncheltenham.org

EAC Energy is looking for ways to publicize this information and these lean energy projects to the citizenry.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bill Mettler
Energy Co-Chair

Cheltenham EAC Transportation Committee – April 2011

Tom McHugh

- Work to support efforts of Cresheim Trail
 - Conversion of dormant rail Right Of Way (ROW) to recreational trail connecting Fairmount Park with western Cheltenham Township and Arcadia University
 - Attend meetings
 - Inform neighborhood groups through email lists
- Work with Cheltenham Township Sustainability Committee
 - Structure of Sustainability Committee
 - Three Steering Committee members from EAC
 - Encourage citizen volunteers to attend meetings
 - Encourage a Transportation component (subcommittee) DVRPC???
- Work with Transition Cheltenham
 - Township Map – Safe Routes for biking and walking
 - Encourage cultural changes to reduce VMT and GHG emissions
- Continue to attend DVRPC RCC meetings as a vocal and voting members (Tom McHugh & Bridgett Chadwick)
 - Encourage cultural changes to reduce VMT and GHG emissions

Cheltenham EAC Buildings Committee – April 2011

Lorna Rosenberg

- Work with School District of Cheltenham – all schools from the Superintendent’s office
 - Recycling “Green Week” program May 2-6
 - Highlights: Maxi – collection Day May 4
 - No waste lunch days
 - Recycling Tip of the Week
 - Presentations by Waste Management @ Glenside and EP on recycling including Cycler the Robot
 - Bulletin boards about recycling
 - Kick-off assembly in schools
- Green Roof at CHS
 - Working on getting a pro-bono structural engineering evaluation of annex
 - Student power point will be finalized after AP exam May 2. Presentation will be made to Superintendent and the School Board. By June.
- Energy Efficiency in School District Schools
 - Matt Malinowski, Business Officer and Vicki Fella-Plier environmental science teacher at CHS attended – Energy Efficiency workshop in K-12 schools sponsored by the Delaware Valley Green Building Council - Schools Committee on March 30 in Chester County
 - Follow-up meeting is being scheduled to discuss actions for efficiency and cost reduction in the district
- Arcadia University Tour of Geothermal installation Thursday April 14 and new green building.

Hello EACers,

Here is some information on our website design ideas. It will now be our job to find strong, government or institutional links to each of these topics. We would like the information to be divided by the following categories:

Building Green

- Green codes
- Instillation of solar panels
- Geothermal
- Renovations and additions to older homes (Nancy has a piece on this)
- Design professional (LEED certified, within the township)
- School District, (LEED certified)

Learning Green (has to be events that the public can attend)

- Night school
- Arcadia <http://www.arcadia.edu/academic/default.aspx?id=3927>
- Primex classes

Our Green Habitat

- Watershed
- Native species lists
- Parks

Eating Green

- Farmers Markets
- Gardening
- Food co-ops
- Creekside
- CSA's
- Community Gardens

Getting Around Green

- Transportation
- Walking
- Biking (can we use the biking information that Transition Towns is working on?)
- SEPTA (Bill, Who created the great bus map?)

Green Civics

- EAC minutes
- Leaf pick up schedules
- Township Clean ups
- Recycling
- Applicable township ordinances
- Sustainability plan

Havir, Bryan

From: David McVeigh-Schultz [david.mcveigh.schultz@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, April 25, 2011 5:00 PM
To: essoka.jonathan; Jonathan Essoka; McDevitt, Kathryn
Cc: Havir, Bryan
Subject: who is copying the vision statement proposals?

Joanathan,

Will you be bringing copies of this for tonight's meeting or would you like Kathryn to copy them? Have you already received this Karthryn?

Dave

Vision Statement Background

Objective:

To communicate the purpose and values of the organization. To inspire. To articulate where the group wants to be in the future.

Keywords from last meeting:

Sustain
Ecosystem
Green
Quality of Life
Future
Community
Township
Ecological
Live
EAC
Restore
Healthy
Vitality
Symbiosis
Regenerate

Ideas from last meeting:

1. Sustainable future of Cheltenham
 - a. Healthy ecosystems (carrying capacity)
 - b. Restoration of all township elements (gray and green infrastructure) and older suburb
2. Township as a place welcoming new opportunities to experiment with sustainability (actively support sustainable initiatives). Sustainability incubator
3. Symbiosis between ecosystem and population. Manage ecosystem to improve environment and human condition
 - a. Matching community and ecological vitality
4. Educational element. Advisors and educators
5. How increase feeling of 'sense of place' for township
 - a. 'empty world' to 'full world' paradigm

- b. Quality of life
 - c. Promote township as a wonderful place to live. Township assets
- 6. Enhance benefits of living in proximity to urban core within a community suburb
- 7. Catalyst for regional collaboration
- 8. EAC as a township resource

Vision Statement Examples

1. We encourage active citizen engagement to enhance the township's quality of life by adopting sustainable behaviors.
2. We strive to create a healthy, livable, vibrant and sustainable Cheltenham Township.
3. Educating and advising citizens to make Cheltenham into a sustainable township.
4. We will inspire Cheltenham residents and leaders to adopt sustainable behaviors in order to:
 - 1) Create and maintain a healthy ecosystem;
 - 2) Integrate environmental features into township planning;
 - 3) Foster a high quality of life.
5. We are committed to maintaining Cheltenham as a "First Class Township." In that endeavor, the EAC will dedicate itself to creating a sustainable community by improving ecosystem health; educating and engaging residents; and supporting the use of environmentally-responsible practices in township planning and projects.
6. We endeavor to strengthen the environmental integrity of Cheltenham Township and forge a sustainable, healthy, livable community. By catalyzing partnerships, education, policy development and influencing innovative resource management, we will ensure our community retains a high quality-of-life standard.
7. The Cheltenham Environmental Advisory Committee aspires to create and sustain a current and future community of natural vitality, through restoring, and regenerating a healthy ecosystem in which a vibrant social community can exist.
8. The Cheltenham Environmental Advisory Committee aspires to assist the Commissioners and greater Cheltenham Community to meet society's present needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. With the help of citizens who have expertise, knowledge, vision, and passion, sustainable issues of concern in the township will be creatively addressed. We aspire to increase connection to nature, to foster a culture that welcomes new opportunities and experimentation, and to nurture a resilient local community that values the benefits the earth provides: air, water, food, and space to live.

