September 20, 2010 7:30 p.m.
Township Administration Building

The regular meeting of the Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) was held tonight. Voting members present were: Mary Beth Carroll, Barbara Duffy, Miriam Moss, Lorna Rosenberg and David Schultz. Ex-officio member present was: Jonathan Essoka. Also present was Dottie Baumgarten, Bob De Maria, Matt Erlanger, Jim Innes and Tom McHugh. Staff present was: Bryan T. Havir, Assistant Township Manager.

1. ***Call to Order*** – Ms. Duffy called the meeting to order at 7:38 p.m.

2. ***Acceptance of Meeting Minutes*** – Ms. Duffy made a motion to accept the August 16, 2010 meeting minutes, seconded by Ms. Carroll. The motion was unanimously accepted.

3. ***Committee Reports*** -

A. *Energy Committee* –Mr. Mettler was not present to give his report. Ms. Duffy reported that Mr. Bale was unable to attend but sent an e-mail for the EAC members to sign up for EarthAid, a behavioral modification approach to home energy conservation. Mr. Bale had also e-mailed a flyer for the EAC's review. Changes to the flyer were suggested and Ms. Carroll volunteered to work with Mr. Bale to reproduce the flyer. Ms. Carroll also noted that in addition to the instruction found on the flyer, in order to sign up for EarthAid, an applicant must first establish an online account with PECO with a password. The EarthAid Committee plans to make information available at the Harvest Festival, Glenside Street Fair, and at certain churches and synagogues.

Ms. Moss once again inquired about the solar panel project in New Jersey and Mr. Innes agreed to forward information to Ms. Moss.

B. *Watershed Committee* – Ms. Duffy reported on the following:

- Sent e-mails out to recruit volunteers for Coventry Park Riparian Planting on Saturday, October 16, 2010 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Mr. Havir stated that the

foliar spraying was completed and that planting supplies and materials were ordered. A rain date has been set for Sunday, October 17, 2010. Arrangements will be made to deliver and off-load plant material.

- Ms. Duffy stated that the preliminary draft of the proposed Riparian Corridor Ordinance will be discussed at a joint Ad Hoc Zoning Committee and EAC meeting on Monday, September 27, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. at the Township Building. Copies of the draft and map were e-mailed to the Ad Hoc Zoning Committee and EAC members. Ms. Moss asked what the process is for adopting the Ordinance. Ms. Duffy explained that she expects one or two meetings of the Joint Ad Hoc Zoning Committee and EAC. Mr. Havir explained a draft would be reviewed by Planning Commission, then the Building and Zoning Committee. Then a public hearing would have to be scheduled. Ms. Moss asked how those affected by the ordinance will be advised. Mr. Havir stated that all affected property owners would receive notification. Ms. Chadwick asked if the Township has an Impervious Surface Ordinance. Mr. Havir noted that issue is being addressed by the Ad Hoc Zoning Committee.
- Ms. Duffy noted that the preliminary draft of the Native Plant Ordinance needs to move to the next level following the review and adoption of the Riparian Corridor Ordinance.
- Ms. Duffy is working with Tookany/Tacony-Frankford Watershed Partnership on water conservation and streambank conservation and plans to provide EPA WaterSense materials at upcoming Community Events such as the Glenside Street Fair on Saturday, October 2, 2010 from 1-6 p.m. and the Harvest Festival

on Saturday October 9, 2010. Ms. Duffy asked for volunteers to work at the EAC table on October 2, 2010. Mr. Havir stated that PECO will also have a volunteer working at a table at the Glenside Street Fair and has provided 750 free compact fluorescent (CFL) light bulbs to be given out while supplies last to promote energy reduction. Participants will have to sign a form with their name and e-mail address to receive their free light bulb.

- Ms. Duffy is also working with Sarah Robb Grieco to develop an interactive water conservation display using WaterSense fixtures and some demonstration utilizing water consumption calculations to show money savings. It was suggested to contact the plumber associations and fixture manufacturers for educational materials on water conservation products.

Ms. Moss noted that Kol Ami invited the EAC to host a table at its Environmental Fair to be held on September 27, 2010 from 5-7 p.m. Ms. Rosenberg and Ms. Moss will man the EAC table.

C. Transportation Committee – Mr. Innes reported that there has not been as much progress made this month as hoped but that Mr. Dunbar will work on documents and mission statement; Ms. Chadwick will continue to offer her support on bus transit issues and Mr. Innes will work on short listing issues.

Mr. Innes reported on the Cresheim Trail progress noting a trail walk is scheduled for November 13, 2010 beginning at the Trolley Stop in Mt. Airy. Ms. Duffy informed Mr. Innes that the students from the Arcadia Environmental Club would be interested in participating.

He also mentioned an informal Cheltenham only walk scheduled for October 10, 2010 which coincides with a 350.org event on October 10, 2010 for climate change.

Mr. Innes stated that he needs to develop specific communications with Mr. Mettler's Transition Town efforts regarding routes and trouble spots, logistical challenges, traffic control, approvals, etc. Mr. Innes stated that there was a request for the walk to end up at Curtis Arboretum.

He also said with regards to the Willow Grove Avenue corridor, especially the Laverock Hill development, there should be opportunities to improve non- vehicular transit.

Ms. Chadwick reported that she has sent e-mails to Commissioners Hampton and Haywood regarding bicycle and pedestrian safety issues.

Ms. Chadwick has contacted PennDOT regarding the Limekiln Pike crossing in front of Arcadia University regarding pedestrian safety. PennDOT stated this can be addressed either through enforcement or through a traffic impact study. With the traffic impact study, Ms. Chadwick understands the emphasis is on the typical impact on motorists if restricted on turning left. Ms. Chadwick would like to see longer crossing time for pedestrians, and that in other parts of the County, there is equipment that stops all traffic to allow pedestrians to move through the intersection crossing.

Ms. Chadwick referred to the Regional Transportation Traffic Improvement Program (TIP) listing for Church Road and Greenwood Avenue and Church Road and Rices Mill Road and was unclear about the status of the projects and suggested the Township find out what PennDOT has planned.

D. Buildings Committee – Ms. Rosenberg reported that the recycling program in the school district is in place. Ms. Rosenberg is planning to meet with Dr. Bavi, the United Parent Group and the new school superintendent, and plan for a Kick-Off event for recycling in November. Mr. Schultz commented on the expanded recycling of plastics No. 3 through 7 in the Township. The Township has provided information on the website, via Township e-

mail and through flyers. Mr. Havir announced that the current recycling flyer would be included with the annual EMS contribution campaign mailing which is sent to every household in the Township. Mr. Schultz asked for some copies for him to give out door to door in his neighborhood. Mr. Schultz stated he would like to see more progress on making educational information available by the Township on the International Construction Code (ICC) as it pertains to the new Energy Code (IECC) for building contractors within the region and to consumers. Mr. Schultz would like to see what has been done in 2010 regarding PECO Rebates and continue to have those PECO rebates incorporated in the 2011 budget.

E. Communication Committee – Ms. Carroll requested that the EMS mailing also include a request for Township residents to sign up for Township e-mail alerts. Ms. Rosenberg suggested that an EAC volunteer be proactive at the Glenside Street Fair and Harvest Festival and ask attendees to subscribe to the Township e-mails. Ms. Carroll has also suggested in the past that Commissioners should be able to send out e-mails to their own constituents in their respective wards. Ms. Carroll, on behalf of the EAC, made a motion to recommend to the Board of Commissioners to enact a policy of using email communication as the primary source of communication in the Township. Residents should be encouraged to sign up for email communications on the established system. The staff should place an invitation on EVERY piece of communication that goes to the citizens including tax bills, letterhead, newsletters, and on Channel 42 video. This would also allow for better emergency management alerts to the residents and businesses; seconded by Mr. Schultz. The motion was unanimously accepted.

4. *Old Business*:

A. Update on the Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant - Mr. Havir noted that in follow up to the August 31, 2010 bid opening minutes, contracts were awarded by the Board of Commissioners on September 15, 2010 to Air Control Technology, Inc. (mechanical) and Palman Electric, Inc. (electrical). The project includes a Rowland Community Center Boiler upgrade and lighting for the main hallway in the upper level. The project is to be completed by December 31, 2010.

B. Sanitary Sewer Update – Mr. Havir stated that the Power Point Presentation given at the Public Works Committee Meeting on September 7, 2010 by the Township Manager is posted on the Township website. It was noted that residents attending the meeting questioned the aesthetics of the bypass pump and recommended some type of camouflage to cover the bypass pipes in certain areas. The Township will evaluate options. The temporary bypass pipe could be in place for the next four to five years.

At this time, Mr. De Maria offered to set up a meeting for anyone interested to visit Vineland Municipal Waste Utility and Vineland Municipal Electric Utility owned by City of Vineland.

C. Update on Pennsylvania Electric Choice - Mr. Havir reported that Constellation Energy, a preferred vendor of the Municipal Utility Alliance communicated that they would enroll 15 of the 33 Township accounts submitted for review. Mr. McHugh commented the 15 accounts probably were the most predictable use under 60% (public lights, overhead lights, public lighting rate) and they would most likely use the cheapest energy source (nuclear or coal) for their purchasing base. PECO's highest rate would then be utilized for the other 40% of the accounts. Mr. Havir noted that the contract for greener energy choice from the Township's current energy provider (Native Energy) is set to expire at the end of the year. The EAC suggested that Mr. Havir continue the green energy choice premiums at

5, 10, 15 and 20 percent levels and ask for comparison rates from Constellation Energy. The Township Administration will schedule a presentation by Constellation at a future Public Works Meeting. The EAC members felt that they did not have enough information to make a recommendation but suggested that Constellation Energy provide information on minimum kilowatt hour purchases as well as peak load shedding.

D. PECO Smart Ideas Programs

Mr. Havir reported that the rebates from the PECO Smart Ideas Program for lighting upgrades completed last fall at the Township's Public Works Building and Emergency Management Services Building have not been reimbursed yet. PECO is requiring more backup information. Also, more pre-application information is being required by PECO for the Rowland Community Center Energy Efficiency Project.

E. Update on Community Sustainability Plan - Mr. Havir reported the application ($100,000) for the Community Challenge Planning Program offered by HUD/ DOT/EPA was filed on August 23, 2010.

5. New Business

Mr. Havir included information to the EAC members on the Great American Great Outdoors for EAC members if they wished to participate.

6. Other Business – Ms. Baumgarten stated that she had discussed with John Hoover the possibility of providing environmental education programs during the spring/summer program either at LaMott Community Center or High School Park. She suggested that Judy Gratz or Diana Weiner might be interested in participating. Ms. Baumgarten said a proposal will be presented by October 13, 2010. She would like to get structure in place and start with three classes.

Mr. McHugh commented on the preliminary draft of the proposed Riparian Corridor Ordinance page four, paragraph 4, in laymen's terms which states...for any plan submitted for subdivision, development or improvements, that requires Township permit within any part of the property within 100 feet of wetlands, pond, stream, it will require a professional, licensed in Pennsylvania, to draw up plans for review by Township Engineer. Ms. Duffy noted that the biggest concern was related to development and protecting the 100 foot area. She noted that there are supposed to be exemptions for existing property owners. The intent is to protect downstream neighbors.

7. ***Adjournment*** – Ms. Duffy made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Ms. Moss. The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

David G. Kraynik,
Township Manager

Submitted by:
Kathryn McDevitt

MEETING ATTENDANCE

Environmental Advisory Council

Monday, September 20, 2010 @ 7:30 P.M.

TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
8230 Old York Road, Elkins Park, PA 19027

(Please Print Clearly)

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