July 19, 2010 7:30 p.m.
Township Administration Building

The regular meeting of the Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) was held tonight. Voting members present were: Daryl Carrington, Mary Beth Carroll, Barbara Duffy, Miriam Moss, Lorna Rosenberg and David Schultz. Ex-officio member present was: Tom Bale. Also present was Laura Bale, Bridgett Chadwick, Bob Hamburg, 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 7:35 p.m.

2. ***Acceptance of Meeting Minutes*** – The June 21, 2010 meeting minutes were unanimously approved as submitted by motion of Ms. Duffy, second by Mr. Carrington.

3. ***Committee Reports -***

A. *Energy Committee* –Mr. Mettler was not present to give his report but did forward a copy of his report for the meeting (see attached). In his absence, Mr. Hamburg gave a brief review of the un-car picnic. Mr. Hamburg reported that 50-60 people attended the Transition Town Un-car Picnic community event held on June 27, 2010, 4-7 PM – at Robinson Park located at Greenwood Avenue and Bent Road and at Calvary Presbyterian Church across the street. The next Transition Towns Event, "Local Food/Local Fun Banquet" is being hosted by Commissioner Hampton on Saturday, August 28, 2010 from 5-9 pm at Curtis Hall.

Mr. Bale provided an update on EarthAid, a behavioral modification approach to home energy conservation. Mr. Bale reported the Committee members were trained by Mr. Byrd of EarthAid. The Committee is made up of four members each having a goal of signing up two households per week and two businesses per month. Mr. Hamburg was first to enroll in the energy savings program. Mr. Hamburg stated that the sign-up process on-line is not onerous. Contact information and account data from your electric bill is needed.

Every month you will receive report on how much energy you used. If steps are taken to reduce energy consumption, you are rewarded with discounts and coupons. Discussion regarding advertising on websites and in newspapers ensued.

B. Watershed Committee – Ms. Duffy reported the Wyncote Elementary School students planted a native garden around the flagpole on June 3, 2010 with EAC tools and instruction from Ms. Duffy. EarthForce and Cheltenham High School environmental students organized and worked with the students at Wyncote Elementary School throughout the year and the garden was their end-of-year project.

Ms. Duffy contacted the Melrose Park Neighborhood Association through e-mails to begin recruiting volunteers for the Coventry Park Riparian Planting Project funded by the Township's Tree Vitalize Grant. The planting will be on Saturday, October 16, 2010.

Ms. Duffy stated that Ms. Mazzaccaro, Montgomery County Planner was conducting parcel analysis and additional mapping for the proposed Riparian Corridor Ordinance in response to the comments made at the joint EAC/ad hoc zoning meeting this past March. The Ordinance is still under review by the ad hoc zoning committee. The next joint EAC and ad hoc zoning committee meeting is anticipated for September 22, 2010.

Ms. Duffy said the Native Plant Ordinance is complete and should to be scheduled for review by the ad hoc zoning committee. Ms. Duffy will discuss with Ms. Mazzaccaro.

Ms. Duffy reported that she is working with the Township, the EAC Building Committee and the Tookany/Tacony-Frankford Watershed Partnership (TTF) on an ad hoc Water Conservation Committee to provide strategies to the community. (see attached)

C. *Transportation Committee* – Mr. Innes, co-chairman of the committee, reported that several members of the EAC recently met to begin discussion of developing a Transportation Committee focus. Through discussions, the attendees thought the committee

would begin with walkable, bikeable trails. Their focus would be directed to the Easton Road corridor from Arcadia University to the Glenside Business District to promote walkability, biking and safety. Mr. Innes stated he would try to have something in writing by the September meeting. Mr. Innes noted that his approach will be to identify problems looking at specific points as well as the bigger picture and see what can be addressed. He said he will need a co-chair and members to assist and focus on the details. Mr. Innes is currently co-chairing the Cresheim Trail Project with others from Philadelphia, Cheltenham and Springfield and meeting bi-monthly to draft a development plan. The Committee had contacted Ron Dunbar about working on the committee but he is not available yet.

D. *Buildings Committee* – Ms. Rosenberg reported that the Cheltenham Township School District is moving forward with the recycling efforts. She plans to meet with the High School Green Team.

Ms. Rosenberg also stated that she has been working with Beth Shalom on an energy management program through Partners for Sacred Places and energy performance benchmarking for their HVAC upgrades project.

Mr. Schultz stated that his work on recruiting new members for the transportation committee is completed.

Additionally, Mr. Schultz mentioned the idea of applying for an EnergyCorps AmeriCorps intern; however, it was tabled in view of the possibility of the Township pursuing an upcoming FY 2010 DOT-HUD-EPA Community Challenge Grant Program. It was suggested that the EAC/Township consider applying for an AmeriCorps intern once we develop a sustainability plan and action steps are in place for the intern to carry out.

Ms. Rosenberg informed the EAC committee that the letter regarding the Building Advisory Group (BAG) was sent out under Ms. Duffy's signature to the Cheltenham

Township School Board. Ms. Rosenberg asked if that letter was public information that could be sent to the United Parents' Group and Teachers' Group. Mr. Havir reported that the letter was reviewed by the Public Works Committee and is a public document.

Ms. Rosenberg also stated that she had heard indirectly that the School District had put out a Request for Proposals to hire an architect for design plans for a new Cheltenham Elementary School.

Ms. Rosenberg reported that the ad hoc committee for Cheltenham Water Conservation met and discussed creating an issue statement. Ms. Rosenberg reported that Mr. Lynch felt that water conservation could help the sewer problem and would be a worthy use of volunteer time. There was discussion on the possibility of planning an infiltration and inflow study with Delaware Valley College. The committee reiterated that it would be in the community's interest to encourage water conservation practices by using aerators, shower heads, low flow toilets, self-watering planters, rain barrels, rain gardens, bio swales, etc. Ms. Rosenberg referred to the EPA's WaterSense Program. Creative programs to encourage conservation could include trading in 7 gallon toilets for 1.6 gallon toilets, providing free shower heads; policy statements regarding waterless urinals for the School District and rainwater cisterns. Ms. Rosenberg stated that Drexel University students may be able to help evaluate flow data, establish measurements, target estimates, get participants. Educational outreach from Tookany/Tacony-Frankford Watershed Partnership could be accomplished with seminars on watershed issues.

Ms. Moss and Mr. Carrington verbally reported to the committee on their observations and comments of the land development plan from St. Nicholas Church on Stahr and Church Roads near the Elkins Park Library. Mr. Havir will send a copy of their report to the Building and Zoning Department.

E. Communication Committee – Ms. Carroll reported that she recently spoke to Ms. Gibson about the EAC article for the semi-annual newsletter following last month's meeting and stated that Ms. Gibson had agreed to work on the article since Ms. Carroll was leaving for vacation. Ms. Duffy informed the members that she is working with Ms Gibson on the article. She will try to include energy tips from Mr. Mettler, watershed concepts from Ms. Sarah Robb-Grieco, greening or sustainability efforts by the Township and the School District, things homeowners and business owners can do to reduce energy consumption and the inclusion of a "green corner" on the Township website for in-depth tips. It was suggested including a list of current EAC committees and requesting volunteers to serve on the various committees. Ms. Duffy stated she will e-mail copies to the EAC members. She will also need a photo for the article.

4. *Old Business*:

A. Update on Community Sustainability Plan - Mr. Havir reported on the development of a Community Sustainability Plan. He noted the Township Manager and he recently met with the Montgomery County Planning Commission (MCPC) to discuss the concept of developing a plan. He stated a meeting with Temple University Ambler Campus Sustainability Program is also scheduled for July 21, 2010. He noted the MCPC submitted an outline of key concepts to be included in the plan and that the planning process will most likely include the formation of a steering committee to work on the goals and strategies over a year and a half.

Mr. Havir stated that he is evaluating the sustainability planning grant opportunities from the recently announced Community Challenge Planning Program by HUD/ DOT/EPA. Mr. Havir said he is currently working on a pre-proposal for a federal grant opportunity due July 26, 2010 with the formal application due August 23, 2010. Mr. Havir is trying to tailor the

application's six livability criteria to the Cheltenham Township's proposed plan, which also includes economic development, affordable housing and transportation. A loose outline could include such items as: rewriting zoning ordinance regulations, water conservation ordinance, riparian buffer ordinance; native plant ordinance, solar energy ordinance to promote BMP's and energy efficiency in homes, local food production, green procurement, and promoting energy management concepts in municipal buildings.

The EAC members concurred in favor of filing a federal grant application for sustainability planning and offered the following suggestions for input in the application:

- Connectability with walkable and bikeable safer routes to SEPTA
- Utilizing Tookany Creek greenway
- Health and Recreation
- Apply to AmeriCorps next year for Implementation of the Action Plan.
- Greenhouse Gas Emission Measurements critical as a base line. Use DVRPC data as baseline
- Adhere to NOFA eligibility criteria
- Include population estimates
- Government Activities including recycling and waste management with Montgomery County Plan as model
- Goal setting
- Measureable improvements
- Average daily traffic counts for vehicles
- Township Fuel costs
- Overlap between sewers and low lying streams.
- Chattanooga model used protecting streams in their plan which correlates closely with Cheltenham Township's situation.
- Get people out of cars
- Affordable Housing – take existing and "green" it. Use two census tracts e.g. for federal weatherization program. Entice someone to build green and affordable housing in mixed use, energy efficiency, greening, and white roofs.
- Transportation oriented shuttles
- Encourage Energy Audits

B. Update on the Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant - Mr. Havir reported that Ms. Rosenberg met on Friday, July 16, 2010 at the Township Administration Building with Stephen J. Lit, Project Consultant, for the Energy Efficiency Project at Rowland Community

Center to review the plans and technical specifications. Ms. Rosenberg provided an overview of the project. Bid Advertising is scheduled for July 28 and August 4, 2010. There will be a Pre-bid meeting on August 9, 2010 with bids due on August 31, 2010 and an award of contract anticipated for September 15, 2010. Mr. Schultz expressed a concern that the plan does not include auto controls for the individual thermostats in each of the classrooms which, in his opinion, creates a potential for waste. Mr. Schultz asked to have the plans e-mailed to him.

C. Update on Sanitary Sewer System - Mr. Havir reported that the Township awarded an emergency contract in May to Godwin Pumps to purchase and install an interim bypass pump system to prevent sewer surcharging. The project is underway. The cost for the Bypass Pump Project is $1.2 million and is scheduled for completion in September. An updated corrective action plan for the Township was approved at the June 16th meeting of the Board of Commissioners meeting as well as an approved wastewater service agreement with the City of Philadelphia. There was continued discussion on the issue of sewer overflows.

Ms. Moss said there was surcharging last week which affected an area around Brookdale Road.

5. New Business

6. Other Business – Mr. Havir stated that PECO submitted a final report for the Wyncote MGP site. The Township has been asked to review the final plan and sign off on the final covenants. The matter will be scheduled for review at an upcoming Commissioners' committee meeting this fall.

Mr. McHugh reported on a recent Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) Regional Citizens Committee (RCC) Meeting where the action committee was in

full support of the CCC and the R8 line and asked for a moratorium on parking garages. DVRPC completed a study of increased greenhouse gases from constructing parking garages. He also reported on the state's draft Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for 2011 which is currently being circulated for public comment.

7. ***Adjournment*** – Ms. Duffy made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Ms. Moss. The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

David G. Kraynik,
Township Manager

Submitted by:
Kathryn McDevitt

MEETING ATTENDANCE

Environmental Advisory Council

Monday, July 19, 2010 @ 7:30 P.M.

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

(Please Print Clearly)

Name	E-mail or Other Contact Info, if desired	Member (Y/N)
Barbara Duffy	beduffy@comcast.net	Y
David Schubert	david@ecasavesenergy.org	Y
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[illegible]	[illegible]	Y
Miriam Mass	massm@arcadia.edu	Y
Jim Innes	james.innes@carrier.lasgroup.com	Y
Tom McHugh		
Bridgett Chadwick		
Tom Bale		
Laura Bale		
Bob Hamburg		

Watershed Report: EAC Meeting July 19, 2010

* June 3rd worked with Earth Force and SEED students at Wyncote Elementary School to install a native butterfly garden around flagpole. Helped to instruct students on planting and lent the group our EAC tools.

*Sent out emails to begin gathering volunteers for the Coventry Park Riparian Planting on October 16th. (Especially notified Melrose Park Neighborhood Association, as they are active in that area.)

* **Riparian Corridor Ordinance** update. Montco Planning is doing a lot more mapping and parcel analysis, and Hannah Mazacarro developed some changes based on the mapping and in response to the comments made at the joint EAC/AD Hoc meeting in March. Hannah still needs to review the draft ordinance with David Lynch. As soon as she get David's comments on the ordinance, she can complete an internal review of it with the environmental planners. We are scheduling another joint EAC / Ad Hoc Zoning committee meeting to review the changes in September. Hannah thinks that we will need one or two review meetings with the EAC/AD Hoc before it can move onto the Planning Commission for a formal presentation.

* **Native Plant ordinance:** Not sure what next step is for this ordinance. Ordinance draft is complete and needs to move on to next step.

* Working with TTF and Buildings Committee on brainstorming Water Conservation stratagies to promote to the community.

7/19/10 EAC Energy Team Report

An EAC and Transition Towns shared mission:
Reducing Cheltenham's Carbon Footprint and Increasing Cheltenham's Economy by localizing goods & services and creating a *walk-able* and *bike-able* community.

Two Events:

1. The **UN-car Picnic** was held on
Sunday, June 27, 4-7 PM
People traveled by: **Bike, Bus, Train,** or **Feet** to
Robinson Park at Greenwood Ave & Bent Rd in
Wyncote 2 blocks up Greenwood from Jenkintown-Wyncote RR station
Calvary Church on Bent in case it rains
Attendees brought their own Picnics
Zero Waste was achieved with imported recycling containers and the celebrants bringing their food and gear in re-usable containers—we left the park in pristine condition!
Workshops & Demonstrations:
Envisioning our clean and diverse transportation future: Lora Lehman, facilitator
How to Clean & Service Your Bike; Philadelphia Bicycle Ambassadors
The All-Purpose Fast & Easy Bike Tune-up: Philadelphia Electric Wheels mechanics
How to fix your Bike's flat tire—fast & easy! Mitch Weitz
Bike and Mass Transit Maps—Steve Spindler, Cartographer
Electric Bike Test Driving: Philadelphia Electric Wheels mechanics
Bike Rodeo: Judith Gratz Coordinator
Bike Decoration Station: Bill Mettler, Bike-Deco consultant
5 Cheltenham Safe-as-Possible bike routes;
5 Cheltenham Safe-as-Possible bike routes were laid out to Robinson Park with bio-degradable route markers to help families bike as "safe as possible" across the Township (from Washington Lane to Lavrock, from Glenside Ave. to Cheltenham Ave.)
We will collaborate with other neighborhoods to make a Safe as Possible bike network throughout the Township and beyond. [Do you know of a Safe Street for Bikes? call Bill at 215 885-8936]

2. SAVE THE DATE!!!! Local FOOD/Local FUN Banquet—a Transition Towns Event
Celebrating our Town's Growing Capacity to produce, acquire, and enjoy locally grown foods.
Commissioner KATHY HAMPTON is hosting the Local Food/Local Fun Banquet on
Saturday, August 28, 5 to 9 PM at CURTIS HALL in Curtis Arboretum.

Local food production and availability are central to our families' well being and the resilience of our township as fossil fuels grow more dangerous and costly to produce and use.

Friends, neighbors and citizens from Cheltenham and surrounding communities will be invited to come to the potluck party by bringing a dish to share—your ingredients should come from a:
Family garden or community garden
CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) farm
Farmers' Market (Hopefully, Glenside or Creekside Coop at HS Park)
Co-op or Local food store (e.g. *Peas in a Pod*) that sells locally produced food
In any case the ingredients: vegetables, fruit and other food must have been produced within 100 miles of Cheltenham Township.

Also, citizens, friends and neighbors will be invited to bring instruments, a song or story to share. We hope to have a kid-friendly, community celebratory, no-waste event.

Respectfully Submitted, Bill Mettler Lean Energy Co-Chair, EAC