June 21, 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, William Mettler, Miriam Moss, Lorna Rosenberg and David Schultz. Ex-officio member present was: Jonathan Essoka. Also present was Laura Bale, Dottie Baumgarten, Jim Innes, Tom McHugh and Geoff Moulton Staff present was: Bryan T. Havir, Assistant Township Manager.

1. ***Call to Order*** – In Barb Duffy's absence, Vice-Chairman David Schultz called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

2. ***Acceptance of Meeting Minutes*** – The May 17, 2010 meeting minutes were unanimously approved as submitted by motion of Ms. Carroll, second by Mr. Mettler.

3. ***Committee Reports*** -

A. *Watershed Committee* – In Ms. Duffy's absence, Mr. Schultz reported that the Riparian Buffer Ordinance draft is still being reviewed by the ad hoc zoning committee which meets next on July 13, 2010.

Mr. Schultz asked Ms. Baumgarten to report on the proposed Ashbourne Country Club development which was scheduled for a hearing before the Zoning Hearing Board on June 8, 2010 which she attended. Ms. Baumgarten reported on the applicant's request for a variance from the rules and regulations of the Floodplain District and the Steep Slope Conservation District. Discussion ensued regarding the reduction of the original number of proposed dwelling units from 240 to 226 units, floodplain, wetland and steep slopes.

Ms. Baumgarten also stated she attended a meeting of the LaMott Community residents regarding the 1.8 acre Community Garden property currently owned by Temple University which has been used by the LaMott residents for over seventy years for

gardening. Ms. Baumgarten stated she wrote a letter for the LaMott residents to Temple University. Mr. Schultz had also given Ms. Baumgarten the name of a contact person at the Philadelphia Water Department to also follow up with.

B. Transportation Committee – Mr. Schultz reported that he had been in contact with Mr. Ron Dunbar, a retired electrical engineer, who had worked with Rails/Trails Conservancy and Bike Coalition of Greater Philadelphia. Mr. Schultz, Ms. Chadwick and Mr. Innes plan to meet with Mr. Dunbar in the near future to discuss interest in working with the EAC Transportation Committee.

C. Buildings Committee –

Ms. Rosenberg reported on the Cheltenham Township School District's May Facilities Meeting where the Facilities Committee discussed Planning and Construction (PLANCON) design. Gilbert Architects had been recommended to conduct a comprehensive district wide facilities study. The School District's Strategic Plan was also discussed.

Ms. Rosenberg referred to Harriton High School in Lower Merion as having a Building Advisory Group (BAG) made up of parents, students, and community members as part of the planning and design process. Cheltenham Township School District has nothing like that. The EAC suggested drafting a letter to the School District recommending an ad hoc advisory council be established of community members to participate in the planning process. The next facility's meeting is scheduled for July. Ms. Moss recommended that Ms. Rosenberg prepare a draft letter to the School Board from the EAC to be signed by Chairperson Duffy and to e-mail it to the members for review and comment by Friday, June 25, 2010 so that the letter can be appended to the EAC minutes. (see attached) The motion was seconded by Mr. Carrington and approved.

Ms. Rosenberg is also working with the School District on "green" procurement and stated that the Cheltenham School District's business manager is knowledgeable about this topic. Ms. Rosenberg cited Lower Merion School District's procurement policies as "green practices".

Ms. Rosenberg stated that the Parents Teachers Organization (PTO) Green Committee is working on recycling issues with the School District.

Mr. Havir reported that last month, the Township awarded an emergency contract to Godwin Pumps to purchase and install an interim bypass pump system to prevent sewer surcharging pending a signed agreement with City of Philadelphia. A revised 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. The cost for the Bypass Pump Project is $1.2 million and is scheduled for completion this year. There was continued discussion on the issue of sewer overflows. Ms. Rosenberg agreed to check if their EPA resource person was able to attend next month's meeting to make a presentation on the topic of sanitary sewers and the overflow issue.

Ms. Rosenberg stated that Mr. Lynch contacted her regarding infrastructure work that must be done and the need to document in the Township's corrective action plan, water conservation practices for residents. Ms. Rosenberg stated that the EPA has the WaterSense Partnership Program which includes labeling products and fixtures to identify high efficiency products, such as low flow water shower heads and low flow toilets and identifies water efficient practices to save money and protect the environment. It was agreed that it would be beneficial to document these measures in the Township's plan to inform and educate residents and the EAC could help with outreach. It was suggested forming an ad hoc committee to work on this project. The Ad Hoc Committee volunteers were: Mr.

Essoka, Mr. Carrington, and Ms. Rosenberg. It was noted that it is 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.

D. Communication Committee –

Mr. Carroll announced that the EAC has an opportunity to prepare an article with an environmental theme for the fall update. The EAC discussed topics and volunteer resourees, such as water usage energy efficiency and the planning process (Mr. Carrington). Ms. Carroll will contact Ms. Gibson regarding the amount of space and words for the three topics and e-mail that information to the volunteers (Misses Grieco and Rosenberg, Messrs. Mettler and Carrington) who agreed to help write portions of the article.

E. Energy Committee – Mr. Mettler reported that 81 people attended the Transition Town community event held on May 27, 2010, 7-9 PM – at Curtis Hall, entitled "Gathering the Genius: Creating a Resilient, Lean Energy Community." He reported the event was sponsored by Commissioner Kathy Hampton. He also announced the next Transition Town event will be an Un-car Picnic: Bicycle, Bus, Train, Feet, on Sunday, June 27, 2010 from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. rain or shine at Robinson Park located at Greenwood Avenue and Bent Road and at Calvary Presbyterian Church across the street. Participants are encouraged to bring a picnic lunch (reusable containers) and arrive by foot, bike, bus or train. (See attached).

In Mr. Bale's absence, Ms. Laura Bale and Mr. Mettler reported on EarthAid, a behavioral modification approach to home energy conservation. Ms. Bale stated that you sign up by families, get an account, give your energy usage history and then you are able to gather your information on water, gas and electricity usage. Mr. Mettler added that families receive energy savings tips for their homes. If families take steps to reduce energy

consumption, they are then rewarded with discounts and coupons. Participants can sign up through tombale@comast.net. Mr. Carrington will sign up and share his experience. Mr. Mettler already sent out 183 invitations regarding EarthAid. (See attached interim report)

4. ***Old Business***:

A. Mr. Havir reported that Steven J. Lit Consulting Engineering, Inc has completed 40% of the mechanical and electrical engineering design for the energy efficient boiler and lighting upgrade project at Rowland Community Center (RCC) and automatic controls at LaMott Community Center (LCC) and the bid package should be completed in mid-July.

B. Sanitary Sewer Update – In addition to what was discussed earlier in the meeting, Mr. Havir noted the Township will be submitting an H20 grant application for a 50/50 matching grant request to Commonwealth Financing Agency for up to $626,000 reimbursement. It is understood that applications under moratorium or corrective action get high priority consideration.

C. SEPTA Cheltenham Avenue Bus Loop – Mr. Havir provided a review of the final development application for the improvements to the bus loop. He noted the EAC's recommendation to install plant material within the concrete median on Ogontz Avenue to "green the area". Responsibility for maintenance was questioned. Mr. Havir said the Township was looking to approach the Greater Cheltenham Avenue Business Improvement District (GCA BID) to assume that role.

Mr. Mettler questioned the Township's use of Roundup® in the parks. Mr. Havir reported the Township's practice for use of Roundup® is in the same quantities, means and methods as the Fairmount Park Commission and in the State Parks. He noted the Township is working with Diana Weiner to develop educational materials about the issue which can be distributed to residents and placed on the website.

5. New Business – Mr. Havir reported that the Township's Tree Vitalize grant application for Coventry Park was approved. Eradication of invasive species will begin in August with a second spray application in September. The public plant day will be October 15, 2010.

Mr. Havir stated that there was discussion on the development of a Township Sustainability Plan at the Public Works Committee. Past efforts were discussed such as the Open Space Plan. Mr. Havir also mentioned the application narrative the EAC helped draft in December 2007 for a regional sustainability awards program. Mr. Havir noted the projected cost for study is $15,000.00. Staff will solicit proposals from Montgomery County Planning Commission (MCPC) and Temple University Ambler Campus Sustainability Program. The EAC agreed to help develop a stakeholder list to work on tasks over nine to twelve months. Mr. Schultz felt that a citizen steering committee was important to work with the consultant and that the plan should not be done just to sit on a shelf. It was recommended to include no more than twenty stakeholders. It was suggested that the EAC do preliminary planning. The benefit of the plan would be to build the Township's image and identity and help with marketing the community as a "sustainable community." Ms. Rosenberg stated that HUD just came out with sustainable community funding applications and she would forward the information to Mr. Havir. The EAC discussed various plan elements to include. Mr. Havir will report back at the next EAC meeting after meeting with the MCPC and Temple Ambler representatives.

Mr. Havir reported that the Historic Preservation Consultant for the Township BHAR's has prepared a historic preservation sustainability brochure which includes window restoration. He distributed the draft text and noted it was written to encourage owners of older homes to preserve their historic wood windows. Mr. Havir asked that the EAC review

and offer comments. Mr. Schultz stated that he would like to add some comments about the emissivity of double paned windows.

Mr. Havir also discussed the land development plan from St. Nicholas Church on Star and Church Roads near the Elkins Park Library. He said a copy was provided to him from the Township Engineer for the EAC's comments.

6. ***Adjournment*** – Mr. Mettler made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Ms. Rosenberg. The meeting was adjourned at 9:38 p.m.

David G. Kraynik,
Township Manager

Submitted by:
Kathryn McDevitt

MEETING ATTENDANCE

Environmental Advisory Council

Monday, June 21, 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)
Laura Bale	balesaca@gmail.com	
GEOFF MOULTON	CHELTENHAM@DIAGTOOLS.COM	
Dave Schultz	David.McVeigh.Schultz@gmail.com	Y
Dottie Baumgarten	dottiebaumgarten@gmail.com	N
Jim Innes	jim.innes2@gmail.com	Y
Mary Beth Carroll	MBCarroll@aol.com	Y
Miriam Moss	mossm@arcadia.edu	Y
DARYL LAFFERTON	darylc@jdavisarchitects.com	Y
Jonathan Essoka	jessoka@verizon.net	Y
Lorna Rosenberg	Rosenberg.Lorna@epa.gov	Y
Tom McHugh	tom.mchugh@monitordata.com	Y
WILLIAM METFLER		

Dear School Board Members,

On behalf of the Cheltenham Township Environmental Advisory Council (EAC), I am writing to recommend the creation of a Building Advisory Group in support of your efforts in long range facility planning and building design and construction for schools in our district.

We understand that building facilities planning and construction projects are expensive, complicated and have significant impacts on the natural environmental, as well as on the health and well being of students and staff working within the buildings. As an EAC, we support the development of energy, water and resource efficient school projects that are sustainable and long lasting for future generations of Cheltenham students and residents. Our Township is fortunate to have many talented individuals, many whom are parents of students, with expertise in issues concerning school design, construction and management. These knowledgeable residents would be voluntarily willing to contribute to your efforts in bringing sustainable high performing schools for our students and staff.

The concept of a Building Advisory Group (BAG) has been utilized quite successfully in other school districts. For example, in Lower Merion, their BAG promoted community **inclusiveness and transparency** as they worked along with the architecture team and School Board through the entire development and construction of their two new high schools; Lower Merion and Harriton. We are advocating for a BAG in Cheltenham open to teachers, students, parents, district staff, and community building professionals which would meet with the architects and School Board in parallel to a proposed construction project. This type of public involvement helps tax payers to participate in and see the long term cost benefits of well planned energy/water conservation and efficiency measures.

It is our understanding that you did have a parent/teacher group involved in the planning of Glenside Elementary. It is our hope that a BAG group would enhance that same type of participation by adding the community experts who are knowledgeable of architectural design, energy/water conservation and watershed issues, as well as the state funding process. The BAG would be a more useful group for input on long range planning and the next construction project you undertake.

We appreciate your feedback on this suggestion and look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

Barbara Duffy, Chair
Cheltenham Environmental Advisory Council

cc: Board of Commissioners
David G. Kraynik, Township Manager
Bryan T. Havir, Assistant Township Manager

DRAFT

Cheltenham/EarthAid

Interim Report 6/21/10

1. The volunteer group now has 5 members with the addition of Bill Mettler. The others are Bob Hamburg, Tom Petersen, Ed Lichstein, and Tom Bale

2. Dave Burd, VP of EarthAid will conduct a training via phone conference tentatively on July 1

3. EarthAid will send materials needed for the campaign

4. Volunteers will then map out the enrollment strategy for Cheltenham families and businesses and begin the project (while Cheltenham is our base participants can also be outside this geographic boundary)

5. Interventions for families will include house by house, coffee "klatches," presentations that "piggyback" on the meetings of community groups, emails with phone follow-up
   - for businesses attending Chamber of Commerce meetings, contacting businesses patronized by volunteers

Volunteers will choose the interventions they are most comfortable with

Other ideas from the EAC?

6. A trial running through the end of the year will give us enough experience to know if household energy use is decreasing

7. **Goals:** Dave Burd is suggesting each volunteer enroll 10 families per month. If each of us accomplished this a total of 50 families would be enrolled. Each volunteer would also enroll 1-2 businesses per month for a total of 5-10 businesses. Over 6 months this would total 300 families and 30-60 businesses. We are seeking a reduction in kwh of 2% for each family enrolled.

These goals will be reviewed by the volunteers to see if they fit the time commitment for each person of 1 hour per week.

Tom Bale

UN-car Picnic

Bicycle, Bus, Train, Feet: Alternative Modes of Travel Made Easy
A Transition Town Power Down Event
Hosted by Transition Cheltenham:
www.TransitionCheltenham.org/Transportation

Bring-Your-Own Picnic Dinner
Tour the Community Garden in the Park
Select From Several Mini Workshops
See What Vendors Have For Bicyclists

WHEN: Sunday June 27, 4:00-7:00 PM - Rain or Shine

WHERE: Robinson Park, Greenwood Ave and Bent Road and Calvary Presbyterian Church across the street.
In case of rain: Event will be held indoors at Calvary Church

WHAT TO BRING: Bring a picnic dinner or order from Linda Jean's Grille; they will deliver: (215) 481-9111; 109 Greenwood Ave., Wyncote – near the corner of Glenside Ave. www.lindajeansgrille (no credit cards). ***Bring: reusable cup & cloth napkin; a bike to trade, sell, or give away if you wish.*** There will be some chairs & blankets for your picnic.

HOW TO GET THERE: Bike, take a bus or train or walk; drive your car if you must. The R1, R2, R3, & R5 trains, and the 77 bus, stop at the Jenkintown train station. Check the train and bus schedule at: http://www.septa.org/. From the train station corner at Glenside & Greenwood Aves. cross Glenside Ave. and walk 2 blocks along Greenwood Ave. to Bent Road, then cross Greenwood Ave. & go up the hill on Bent Rd. to the entrance to Robinson Park. Look for our signs.

Mini-workshops: Choose up to three.
Bike safety for children and adults; Reading and using public transit maps and bike route maps; How to change a bike tire & other emergency repairs; Fun for everyone: using public transit for sightseeing, hiking & biking in Montgomery County; How to commute to work & go shopping without a car; Brainstorming a vision for the future: Are car, van, & bike pools in Cheltenham's future?

Transition Towns are groups of neighbors intent on building strong, healthy, sustainable communities using renewable, non-polluting resources. By accessing the wisdom, talents and strengths of our neighbors, we seek to inspire, support, connect, train and empower one another, to produce local food, clean energy, goods and services to make our community resilient and energy efficient.

INFORMATION: Judith Gratz 215-896-7804 COST: A donation of $5.00 is requested