May 17, 2010 7:30 p.m.
Carriage House

The regular meeting of the Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) was held tonight. Voting members present were: Barbara Duffy, William Mettler, Miriam Moss, Lorna Rosenberg and David Schultz. Ex-officio member present was: Jonathan Essoka. Also present was Jim Innes, resident of Laverock. 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*** – Ms. Duffy made a motion to approve the April 19, 2010 meeting minutes with the changes as follows: Mr. Schultz reported that he and Ms. Rosenberg are working on having the EAC Buildings Committee and Township host an educational workshop on the International Building Code (IBC) as it pertains to the new Energy Code (IECC) for building contractors within this region in cooperation with Township Engineer, David Lynch. The April 18, 2010 minutes were unanimously approved.

3. ***Committee Reports*** -

A. *Energy Committee* – Mr. Mettler reported on a Transition Towns community event – 1) May 27, 2010, 7-9 PM – at Curtis Hall, "**Gathering the Genius**: Creating a Resilient, Lean Energy Community," sponsored by Commissioner Kathy Hampton. The Transition Town Initiating Team mission is to act as a catalyst empowering the talents and skills (genius) within our community to vitally re-localize our economy—that is, to become more resilient as a township in response to energy and climate challenges in our near future. Discussion groups will consider how might our town feed, power, shelter, educate, economically rejuvenate, govern, heal, transport, physically restore, artfully

provide, celebrate, enjoy/relax itself beyond cheap oil? Mr. Mettler noted that we hope to connect different groups with different pockets of expertise at this meeting.

Mr. Mettler also reported that on April 22, 2010, Arcadia students and Glenside citizens collaborated on ways to make Glenside a sustainable college town with the following recommendations: 1) Students – A shuttle that runs from Arcadia to Keswick along Easton Road; a new café/student hangout near campus; new/used book store locally owned and new/used clothing store locally owned. 2) Citizens – Improved communication; cultural/ educational opportunities at Arcadia.

Mr. Mettler reported on recent activities effecting LaMott Community Garden. Mr. Mettler stated that Township Manager Kraynik recently mailed a letter to Temple University to advocate donation of the community garden. Mr. Mettler said Mr. Dobson, of the Elkins Estate, is putting together a coalition of financiers to purchase the Temple University property. Proposed plans include building low-cost housing on the approximate two-acre parcel which is currently used as the community garden which is over 100 years old. Following discussion, it was suggested that EAC members attend the Board of Commissioners meeting on May 19, 2010 to lend support to preserve the community garden.

In Mr. Bale's absence, Ms. Duffy reported on EarthAid, a behavioral modification approach to home energy conservation. Ms. Duffy stated that six individuals signed up to participate in the program at the Earth Day Festival. Mr. Bale is hoping to sign up a few more residents at the next Transition Town Meeting on May 27, 2010.

B. Watershed Committee – Ms. Duffy presented the following:

* April 24 - The Earth Day Festival was held on Saturday and was well attended. The festival featured tours of the new LEED building and the special guests were "Ecoman and the Skeptic"—Philadelphia University professors who have their own radio show on sustainable living. The guest speakers were recorded. Thanks to all the volunteers! (Next year's festival will be back at Cedarbrook Middle School.)

*April 22nd – Ms. Duffy presented with Sarah RobbGrieco, Tookany/Tacony-Frankford Watershed Partnership (TTFWP) Executive Director, at the Arcadia University Earth Day Event. The topics of discussion were presented on local stormwater and watershed issues. The importance of Arcadia University was emphasized since they are at the headwaters of the watershed. There was talk of future on-campus riparian buffer projects as funding becomes available.

*April 30th – Ms. Duffy said she attended the Cheltenham Township's Arbor Day celebration at Robinson Park.

* May 3rd – The Back Yard Buffer workshop was presented at Curtis Hall, sponsored by TTFWP. About 20 people attended. In the future, the Committee hopes to partner with TTFWP and Philadelphia Water Department (PWD) to have more Back Yard Buffer workshops with focus on getting residents out who live along our creeks.

* May 11th - Ms. Duffy attended a meeting at Miriam Moss' home with neighbors from Shoemaker and Brookside Roads to discuss the recent and past sewer problems in their area. Commissioner Simon and Township Manager Kraynik attended. Information on past history of the problems and potential future plans was discussed.

* May 19 - The Stormwater Ordinance public meeting will be held at Curtis Hall. The Watershed Committee (WC) supports the ordinance. In view of the flooding in past years, this ordinance, plus a good Riparian Corridor ordinance, is essential to safe guard our community from future flood damage.

Mr. Innes stated he is interested in contacting Ms. Sarah RobbGrieco regarding Tookany Creek headwater consciousness-raising in and around Laverock, Cheltenham and Cottman Street.
Several ideas were discussed, including rain barrels.

C. *Transportation Committee* – no report.

D. *Buildings Committee* –

Mr. Schultz reported that a Workshop for contractors on the new 2009 Building Code will be hosted by the Home Builders Association of Bucks & Montgomery Counties, PA in Horsham on May 25, 2010. The Township Engineer was asked to publicize to contractors who come into the Township Building.

Mr. Schultz requested that plastic recycling be discussed at next month's meeting. He inquired about plastic recycling and how the Township can expand recycling of No. 1

and No. 2 plastic containers to Number 1-7 plastic container recycling. He had surveyed 54 neighbors and Earth Day Festival attendees and all but four signed on. He noted this is a very popular topic and interest is very strong.

Mr. Havir stated the Township plans to go single stream when DEP grant funding is secured. Mr. Havir stated that Governor Rendell just signed legislation last week to expand the recycling Section 902 grant funding through 2020. The next grant application cycle will most likely occur this Fall at which time the idea is to resubmit for funding of two trash compactors to be solely dedicated for recycling, plus new 32-gallon recycling receptacles. A public education component will be part of the grant proposal.

Ms. Rosenberg announced that she is looking for a grant to work with EAC members in the Philadelphia region and her EPA counterparts in Atlanta, Georgia to encourage a sustainability web page. This idea came from talking to Cheltenham Township officials. The idea would be to list the International Building Code (IBC) and its 2009 amendments as well as items such as riparian buffers, with links to Philadelphia Environmental Council (PEC), and items such as how to recycle old kitchen cabinets in one of four places. Ms. Rosenberg would like to meet with Mr. Lynch, Mr. Spector, and the Penn State intern assigned to EPA to work on the website idea and an EPA contractor to discuss ideas about design. Mr. Havir noted that funds were earmarked for Cheltenham's Capital Budget to re-design the Township's website, which could include additional information on environmental issues.

E. Communication Committee –

Mr. Carroll announced that many new e-mail addresses were added from the Earth Day Festival event. The last month had been an active time for e-mails. Ms. Carroll stated that we need to do better advertising for e-mail accounts so that we open up

communication, and e-mail communication needs to be more systemic. Ms. Carroll stated that the original links on the EAC page will most likely not be put back on the page.

Ms. Duffy noted that the EAC will have a table at Arts in the Park on June 6, 2010 and asked for volunteers to work at the event. Ms. Rosenberg volunteered to work in the morning. It was suggested that a sign-up sheet for e-mail contacts be provided at the table.

Further discussion included EAC visibility at the election poll sites in November. The members would like to brainstorm ideas on emergency response.

4. ***Old Business***:

A. Mr. Havir stated that the professional services contract for mechanical and electrical engineering design services for an energy efficient boiler and energy efficient lighting at Rowland Community Center (RCC) and automatic controls at LaMott Community Center (LCC) was awarded to Steven J. Lit Consulting Engineering, Inc

Mr. Havir stated that a new Department of Energy administrator has been assigned to oversee the Township's federal Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant.

B. Mr. Havir reported on the PECO Smart Equipment Incentives Program (Act 129) presentation held at Presidential Caterers in Norristown on April 27, 2010. Two key points: 1) Governments, institutions and non-profit rebate application on line with two-tier approach. Program retroactive back from July 1, 2009 and through March 1, 2010 for projects completed during that timeframe. This includes lighting, HVAC, refrigeration, energy audits, etc., if completed, to file before end of year. 2) March 1, 2010 through 2012, use application on line, once project is completed; you have 60 days for rebate. At this point in time, one third of the funds have been already allocated. Encouraging municipalities and institutions to submit online as soon as possible with anticipated cost, start and completion

dates, assigned caseworker, anticipate when the rebate will be available and earmark it out of pot of available funding.

C. Sanitary Sewer Update - Ms. Moss reported that she had gone door-to-door to her neighbors on Shoemaker and Brookside Road and fifteen people attended a meeting at her home to meet with Commissioner Simon and Township Manager Kraynik. Ms. Moss felt that the meeting was very informative and Commissioner Simon and Township Manager Kraynik reviewed the key points of the events. Much of this information has been shared with the public via the township website, e-mail blasts, newspaper articles, and public meetings. There were a series of short term fixes during that time. One of which was a controlled discharge to Ogontz Field directed by Pennsylvania Department of Environment Protection (PADEP) which was of concern to the neighborhood of Shoemaker and Brookside Road. The importance of having timely information was discussed.

Ms. Moss reported that the Township Manager stated that residents on the two blocks of Shoemaker and Brookside Roads will receive information in the future. Following Ms. Moss's report, discussion ensued regarding the EAC providing information to residents on what they can do as individuals to prevent flooding from stormwater runoff, such as planting shrubs, trees and native plants and creating meadows, as well as utilizing pervious surfaces. It was suggested that a Backyard Buffer program could be presented to the Shoemaker/Brookside neighborhood. Ms. Rosenberg stated that she would make contact regarding grant funding with Sarah RobbGrieco, Executive Director of Tookany/Tacony-Frankford Watershed Partnership (TTFWP). The EAC members felt that there should be a procedure put in place for future stormwater events for use by Public Works, Emergency Management and Building and Zoning Departments. The EAC unanimously recommended that when the Township experiences surcharging of the sanitary sewer system again that it

implement better communication to a broader segment of the public, including the use of large, legible warning signs. Mr. Havir stated that the Act 537 Plan was being amended to include long term solutions, which also includes reviewing the existing agreements with Abington Township, Jenkintown Borough and the City of Philadelphia. This is presently being reviewed by the Township Manager, Township Engineer, Township Consultant, BCM, and Board of Commissioners.

D. Transportation Committee - Mr. Schultz reported on behalf of the nominating committee for Transportation Chairperson and Co-Chair person. Mr. Schultz explained that while the Transportation Chairperson's role includes a broader vision, it was important to have a Co-Chair position that could also work on starting a project in the community. This would take a leader and a support team and who knows what would be possible. Mr. Innes, who was in attendance at the meeting volunteered to serve on the committee noting his extensive experience with pedestrian and biking issues in the community. Mr. Innes also noted his involvement with the Cresheim Trail development and has knowledge of funding sources, on both federal and state levels. Ms. Duffy made the motion to nominate Mr. Innes as Co-Chairman which was unanimously approved by the EAC members. Additionally, Mr. Schultz wished to consider creating a Transit Sub-Committee and he and Mr. Havir will work on developing a list of potential candidates which do not necessarily have to be Township residents.

5. ***New Business*** –

A. Mr. Havir presented an update regarding the Greenwood Avenue Bridge. PennDOT intends to move forward on the bridge replacement and anticipates bids will be let in November 2010 and award of contract in January/February, 2011 and begin the project in Spring 2011 and continue through Spring 2012. This project will proceed separate from the

SEPTA Jenkintown/Wyncote parking garage project. He noted that the Public Works Committee requested another update from PennDOT next Spring before the construction commences. PennDOT's Power Point Presentation can be found on the Township website.

B. Mr. Havir referred to the e-mail attachment regarding Penn Environment's letter to President Obama regarding oil independence. The letter was passed around to the EAC members who wished to sign the petition.

C. Mr. Havir announced that he will be attending the Green Futures Open Space Lands Trust seminar on May 27, 2010 at Upper Dublin Township.

D. Ms. Moss announced that Arcadia University has broken ground on Cooke Field to install 96 geo-thermal wells to optimize energy efficiency. They expect eighteen months to completion. This is an opportunity for the EAC to do some public outreach.

6. ***Other Business*** –Ms. Moss also inquired about information regarding the recent installation of solar panels on the roadway light poles in many South Jersey communities in Camden County.

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

David G. Kraynik,
Township Manager

Submitted by:
Kathryn McDevitt

MEETING ATTENDANCE

Environmental Advisory Council

Monday, May 17, 2010 @ 7:30 P.M.

Carriage House at Wall Park
One Wall Park, Elkins Park, PA 19027

(Please Print Clearly)

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