

The regular meeting of the Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) was held tonight. Voting members present were: Mary Beth Carroll, Barbara Duffy, Bill Mettler, David McVeigh Schultz, Miriam Moss and Lorna Rosenberg, Also present were: Tom Bale, Bob De Maria, and Bob Hamburg. 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 – A motion was made by Mr. Schultz to approve the September 21, 2009 Meeting Minutes as submitted and seconded by Ms. Rosenberg.
3. Committee Reports were as follows:

A. Energy Committee – Mr. Mettler announced that the next Transition Town meeting was scheduled for October 22, 2009 from 7:00 to 9:00 P.M. at Arcadia University's Stiteler Auditorium. Transition Town is a grassroots movement to shrink the carbon footprint in Cheltenham Township. Mr. Mettler suggested more collaboration with Cheltenham Township and Arcadia University students especially in developing resources along Easton Road in the downtown Glenside Commercial District.

Mr. Mettler stated that over 100 property owners have been invited to a community meeting on Wednesday, October 21, 2009 at 8:30 a.m. at Jasmine's to discuss the feasibility of creating a Business Improvement District in Glenside.

Mr. Mettler also commented on the recent Board of Commissioner's adoption of a resolution to evaluate re-introducing the SEPTA R-8 line to serve the surrounding communities in Eastern Montgomery County and Bucks County.

Mr. Bale and Ms. Rosenberg thanked the Board of Commissioners and Township Manager for sending a letter to PECO in support of a residential energy behavior modification program. It was suggested that a meeting be setup with PECO representatives to see if they would consider allowing Cheltenham Township to serve as a model community for this behavior modification system.

Additionally, Ms. Rosenberg suggested that the Township Administration send the same letter to the Public Utilities Commission (PUC). A motion was made by Mr. Mettler to send the same letter to the PUC and seconded by Ms. Moss.

B. Watershed Committee - Ms. Duffy reported on the following:

- A replanting is scheduled along the riparian buffer in Curtis Arboretum near the Dog Park on November 14, 2009 between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.
- The members of the native species ordinance subcommittee have been gathering sample ordinances from other municipalities. Abington Township is working on a similar ordinance. The committee will meet again on November 7, 2009 at the Friends of High School Park office at 7:00 p.m.
- SEPTA's contractor has agreed to install native species in the area of the SEPTA 10-12 Bridge Replacement Project.
- Ms. Duffy reminded the members about a scheduled tour of the Elkins Estate this Tuesday, October 20, 2009.
- Ms. Duffy reported that Mr. De Maria had photos of the EAC booth from the Glenside Street Fair. Mr. De Maria donated a rain barrel, composter and garden bags. Ms. Duffy had some new contacts to be added to the e-mail list.
- The EAC had planned to help remove some plants/trees from the Glenside Elementary School and replant them at the Waverly Road park area but the plant material had already been tagged. It was noted that Ms. Baumgarten had previously suggested using some plants from the Oaklane Day School for planting in that area.
- Ms. Duffy announced that Ms. Baumgarten was hosting a Watershed Education Workshop at Primex on Saturday, October 24, 2009.

C. Transportation – In Ms. Chadwick's absence, Ms. Duffy reported that the resolution in support of reintroduction of the SEPTA R-8 line was approved by the Board of Commissioners.

Ms. Duffy inquired about the Status of SEPTA Jenkintown-Wyncote Parking Garage Project. Ms. Carroll stated that Montgomery County Commissioner Matthews stated at a meeting last Thursday that SEPTA was not looking to construct a large parking garage structure on the south side of the Greenwood Avenue bridge.

D. Buildings – Mr. Schultz announced that the PECO Conservation Plan was submitted for approval by the PUC which is expected by the end of the month as it relates to the rebate items that will be offered by PECO to municipalities.

Mr. Schultz offered to provide a savings analysis on improvement projects listed in the Township's Capital Budget. Mr. Havir said he would provide a copy of the Capital Budget to Mr. Schultz after it is released to the public on the first Wednesday in November.

Mr. Schultz then offered information pertaining to municipal buildings based on the various energy rebate savings achieved by use of CFL's, and innovative products investments, induction lights, high pressure sodium lighting and HVAC systems, etc. Mr. Schultz mentioned that the Cheltenham ShopRite received a million dollar grant from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for solar panel installation on the roof of the building. Following discussion, Ms. Moss asked if Arcadia University would qualify for the rebate incentive programs being discussed. Ms. Moss felt this information would be helpful to Arcadia University if they were considering replacing a boiler system. The EAC membership asked Mr. Schultz if he would consult with Arcadia University on behalf of the EAC and he agreed. Mr. Schultz also discussed various energy rebate savings for residential households, such as installations of new appliances, lighting, white roofs, heat pumps, and duct cleaning, insulation, windows and change-outs to gas energy.

Ms. Rosenberg offered several ideas regarding educational resources for informing the public about energy conservation which included: Environmental Education Workshop-December 18, 2009; EAC may be eligible to apply for a Pennsylvania DEP Educational Grant in the amount of \$7,500. Ms. Rosenberg agreed to e-mail information to the members. Mr. De Maria suggested consideration of a non-profit educational cable television program. Ms. Rosenberg stated she would talk to DVRPC, PECO, public officials and Pennsylvania Environmental Council (PEC) about how energy conservation information can be publicized for residential households.

Mr. Schultz suggested that recycling education was an area that would produce positive results. The members inquired about the status of reporting recycling statistics – both residential and from businesses. The members would like to see an increase in reporting from Township businesses and educational facilities. Mr. Havir stated that businesses are mailed information from the Township annually regarding the mandatory recycling and reporting requirements. Mr. Havir also stated that in the area of residential recycling over 87% of the Township households participate which is considered to be very good. He stated the Township applied to DEP last year for a grant to purchase another packer and also 32-gallon recycle bins to be distributed to all households for single stream recycling. Grant announcements have been delayed by DEP because of the state budget issues but hopefully awards will be made public by the end of the year. The members considered ways in which to educate and increase business participation such as sustainability fairs and involving the Chamber of Commerce to sponsor competition among businesses.

Members discussed the value of a cohesive sustainability plan for the schools in the Township. Mr. Havir talked about the sustainability plan that is being prepared by Gannett-Fleming which was funded by a \$7,500 DEP and SWANA grant. It was suggested that the school district could publish a sustainability report and use Myers School as model to promote the positive things happening there.

Mr. De Maria spoke of his ideas on self-sufficiency and alternative energy conservation initiatives.

E. Communication Committee - Ms. Carroll stated that there were several e-mails being circulated - The Big Ten; Tookany-Tacony/Frankford Watershed Partnership (TTF) – e-waste drive on Nov 21st & 22nd; Riparian Buffer planting on November 14th; Transition Town Event on October 22nd and upcoming non-EAC events.

4. Old Business:

a) Mr. Havir reported that the plant material has been ordered for the Riparian Buffer Replanting, Phase II scheduled for November 14, 2009 at Curtis Park funded through a Tree Vitalize Grant of \$15,740. Nancy Minich of NAM Planning & Design was hired to oversee selection, purchase of plant material and for planting oversight of the project.

b) Mr. Havir reported that the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) application that was filed in June by the Township was reviewed by the U. S. Department of Energy and was added to the approval list on the federal website. The Township has also received an award letter authorizing the approval of the proposed expenditure of the block grant as follows: \$71,000 for a boiler replacement at Rowland Community Center; \$50,000 for automatic controls at Rowland and LaMott Community Centers and \$25,850 for lighting at Rowland Community Center. No funds have been received yet. First quarterly report was filed with federal reporting.gov via the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act which is reviewed in thirty (30) days and then available for viewing by public at www.recovery.gov. When funds are received, it will be put in an interest bearing account and the majority of work will be at Rowland Community Center.

c) Mr. Havir circulated a petition for realignment of the proposed SEPTA Bus Route 72 sponsored by Senator LeAnna Washington and Councilwoman Marion Tasco. Petition forms will be e-mailed to interested parties. Completed petitions should be returned to Mr. Havir by November 9, 2009 so they can be forwarded to SEPTA.

5. New Business - Mr. Havir distributed a flyer on a Natural Lands Trust Workshop on "Open Space Design and Stewardship: Why Should I Care"? held on Thursday, October 22, 2009 from 7-9:00 P.M. in Media.

Mr. Havir noted Governor Rendell released an e-mail announcement regarding The State's Climate Change Action Plan, a copy of which was circulated to the members. (see attached) The

EAC Building Committee agreed to review the draft plan and submit responses by the November 2, 2009 deadline.

Ms. Duffy announced that she was contacted by the Boy Scouts for suggestions for Eagle Scout projects. She asked if the Township wants to engage the Eagle Scout for any projects. Mr. Havir asked Ms. Duffy to contact Mr. Hoover, Director of Parks and Recreation. Ms. Duffy had offered an idea about recycling programs in the schools or installing plantings around some of the pedestrian footbridges in the Township Parks.

Because of the lateness of the meeting, Chairperson Duffy announced that the discussion on Mr. De Maria's proposals will be deferred to the November 16, 2009 meeting.

6. Other Business - Mr. Havir announced the Pennsylvania Horticulture Society Greening Awards Ceremony will be held on November 8, 2009 at 2:00 p.m. Mr. Havir and Ms. Duffy will be attending on behalf of the Township and EAC.

7. The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for November 16, 2009 at the Township Administration Building.



David G. Kraynik,
Township Manager

Submitted by:
Kathryn McDevitt

Havir, Bryan

From: Lauren Peak [lpeak@gvftma.com]
Sent: Monday, October 19, 2009 11:21 AM
To: Havir, Bryan
Subject: PA DEP News Release: PA Applies for \$11 Million in Recovery Funds for HVAC

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
Dept. of Environmental Protection
Commonwealth News Bureau
Room 308, Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
10/16/2009

CONTACT:
Tom Rathbun
Phone: (717) 787-1323

**PA Applies for \$11 Million in Recovery Funds for HVAC, Water Heater Rebate Program
Energy Efficient Heating, Air Conditioning Equipment Rebates Will Complement Electric Utilities' Rebate Programs**

Harrisburg – Governor Edward G. Rendell announced today that Pennsylvania has applied for \$10.9 million in federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds to create a rebate program that will make non-electrical heating, air conditioning and water heating equipment more affordable. The PA Energy Equipment Rebate Program is intended to compliment residential energy conservation programs electric utilities will offer for heating, ventilation and air conditioning appliances that operate on electricity. "Pennsylvania has many older homes that use a variety of heating and cooling methods," Governor Rendell said. "Families are looking for ways to cut their utility bills by conserving energy, so there is a significant and growing demand for financial incentives that will help them purchase modern, energy efficient heating, cooling and ventilation equipment. "This type of program will also help boost our economy by creating jobs and work for local contractors who install the equipment. Further, most of the equipment is manufactured in the United States, with several large manufacturers here in Pennsylvania, so this program will open the door to more demand and new opportunities for several different sectors of our economy." The Governor said that he anticipates receiving approval for the program from the U.S. Department of Energy by the end of this year and hopes to have funds available for equipment by March 2010. The new state rebate program will focus on HVAC and water heating equipment that uses natural gas, propane and oil. Eligible equipment must be new and meet or exceed Energy Star standards. The program could potentially fund 32,000 HVAC installations. It will complement the energy conservation programs electric utilities and suppliers are required to implement for ratepayers under Act 129 of 2008, such as offering rebates for appliances and electric HVAC equipment. Together, these two efforts will help ensure all residential consumers in Pennsylvania have access to energy efficient equipment regardless of the type of fuel they use to heat their home. To learn more about how the federal economic stimulus program will benefit communities across Pennsylvania or to view the submitted application, visit www.recovery.pa.gov.

10/19/2009

