

The regular meeting of the Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) was held tonight. Voting members present were: Daryl Carrington, Mary Beth Carroll, Barbara Duffy, David McVeigh Schultz, and Miriam Moss Also present were: Dottie Baumgarten, Bob De Maria, Kathy Hampton, Bob Hamburg, Diane Hamburg, and Tom McHugh. Staff present was: Bryan T. Havar, 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 August 17, 2009 Meeting Minutes were accepted as submitted.
3. Committee Reports were as follows:

A. Watershed Committee –

Ms. Duffy reported on the following projects the Committee is working on:

- Composing a draft of a proposed native species plant ordinance. The members of the subcommittee have been gathering sample ordinances from other municipalities. The committee will meet on October 4, 2009 at the High School Park office at 6:30 p.m.
- The EAC banner should be ready for pick up from Hibberts. The banner in made up with vinyl letters so that it could easily accommodate the addition of a logo.
- The EAC is scheduled to work on the school planting project at the new Garden of Learning at Elkins Park Elementary School. The EAC will help remove some plants/trees from the Glenside Elementary School and replant them at the Waverly Road park area. On Sunday, November 22nd Ms. Duffy is going to Glenside Elementary School to see what is left over for replacing dead plant material along the buffer. Friends of Grove Park volunteered to help.
- Ms. Duffy stated that the stream naming project is temporarily on hold until Ms. Grieco-Robb returns from maternity leave.
- Ms. Duffy mentioned working with a school environmental club and Philadelphia Earthforce on a film festival series that could be shown on a local cable channel. She also suggested that Earthforce could possibly do a study on frogs at the Curtis Pond. Ms. Duffy mentioned that there is a scheduled e-waste event at Cedarbrook Middle School on Saturday, November 21 & 22, 2009. A Boy Scout has offered to build 4-5 bird houses and install them in Parry Bird Sanctuary Park. Ms. Duffy met with Mr. Hoover on September 2, 2009 to discuss placement as not to interfere with maintenance

operations. Bird Houses for several other areas in Curtis Park were proposed. The Scout Troop agreed to maintain them for the next few years.

- A replanting is scheduled along the riparian buffer in Curtis Arboretum near the Dog Park on November 14, 2009. A second broadcast spraying to remove invasive species plant material at the site is scheduled for October 1, 2009.
- Ms. Duffy reported that the EAC will have a table at the Harvest Festival. Ms. Duffy reported that Ms. Shafron will have students from Glenside Elementary School make signs for recycling. Ms. Duffy requested that a Township Recycling Truck be on hand. Mr. Havar stated that he would talk to Public Works Superintendent, Mr. Mark McDonnell.
- Ms. Duffy informed the members that she had inquired about a tour of the Elkins Estate and reported to the members that the Estate is open to the public on Tuesday evenings from 6-8 p.m. according to Ms. Ragsdale, an employee at the Elkins Estate, if the group would like to book a date.

Ms. Duffy inquired about the status of the mural art grant proposal in Glenside near the Keswick/Mt. Carmel Road underpass. Mr. Havar responded that the Township did hear as of today that the Pennsylvania Arts Council expected to have award notices out following the approval of the state budget.

Ms. Duffy inquired about a tree replanting plan for SEPTA to re-green the area near the SEPTA 10-12 bridge replacement adjacent to the Parry Bird Sanctuary. She also asked if the temporary road would be restored. Mr. Havar responded it was his understanding that the intent is to replant this area. A discussion ensued about easement, power sub-station and sewer line. Mr. Havar would check with Public Works Department Coordinator, Mr. Rudy Kastenhuber, about restoration plans.

B. Transportation – In Ms. Chadwick's absence, Ms. Duffy inquired about the digital data from the SEPTA parking demand survey. Mr. McHugh stated that the digital data with the raw survey material had been received by the Wyncote Neighbors Group. Mr. McHugh reviewed some of the details with the EAC. Members of the Neighbors Group were setting up a computer form to delineate the raw data.

C. Buildings – Mr. Schultz reported that Dr. Wirkshafter had conducted energy audits at LaMott Community Center (LCC) and Rowland Community Center (RCC). During the audits, Dr. Wirkshafter made recommendations for automatic controls be retrofitted to operate the new HVAC equipment installed earlier this summer at the LCC. The contractors were able to put in some preliminary wiring into the current project for future tie-ins for the automated controls. Lighting and heating upgrades were recommended for the RCC. Dr. Wirkshafter, Mr. Hoover and Mr. Havir met with the engineers to discuss achieving the best efficiency for these buildings. Dr. Wirkshafter is working with other projects in the area such as an energy audit at Beth Shalom and developing a capital plan and retrofit plan for Creekside Co-op. Mr. Schultz recommended Dr. Wirshafter's, professional service for future evaluation of utility bills to compare energy performance and cost savings analysis in connection with the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) once the project improvements are completed at both community centers. Mr. Schultz reported he was in the process of reviewing the Township's capital budget to see which projects would be appropriate for review of cost options and cost benefit analysis relating to energy efficiency in the Township and also projects that should be integrated into the Capital Budget as part of the annual review each year as a part of the ACT 129 PECO rebate program. PECO Act 129 Energy Rebate program goes into effect on March 3, 2010. Following a lengthy discussion regarding implementing a tracking system for energy cost savings, a general recommendation was made by the EAC for the Township Administration and Staff to implement building upgrades in tandem with PECO's rebate program for municipalities. Mary Beth Carroll made a motion for the EAC to compile a checklist of eligible building upgrade activities for review and use by departments heads regarding PECO's rebate reimbursable program. The motion was seconded by Mr. Schultz.

In the absence of Ms. Rosenberg, Ms. Schultz reported that upcoming goals of the committee is to complete the Energy Audit video; and working with Dr. Bavi regarding Glenside Elementary School regarding HVAC controls and geo-thermal options that could be integrated into the final

building design. A meeting was set up with staff members doing education using Meyers Elementary School as a resource. It would be highly desirable to recruit some technically savvy people in forming a Technical Advisory Board that could work on the Glenside Elementary School building project. An Open House is scheduled at Meyers Elementary School on October 14, 2009 from 5-7 p.m.

Mr. Schultz made a motion to approve \$300.00 from the EAC's budget to complete the energy audit video which was seconded by Ms. Carroll. The motion was accepted.

D. Communication Committee - Ms. Carroll stated that through the encouragement of the EAC, the Township adopted a constant contact e-mail option on its homepage where people can select topics to have timely information sent to them. As a result, the cost to administer the EAC constant contact e-mail list is being combined with the Township's operating cost for the website. This will leave some funds remaining in the EAC budget for marketing and education materials. There were three event e-mails sent out this month: 1) The TTF Watershed sponsored Clean Up at Wall Park; the Wissahickon Education Seminar and the November 14th planting day at Curtis Park.

Ms. Duffy noted that she observed that there was no link to the School District on the Township website.

Ms. Carroll mentioned that there was an Act 134 Hearing Notice scheduled for Tuesday, September 29, 2009 at the School Administration Building regarding the Glenside Elementary School project.

E. Energy - Ms. Duffy reported in Mr. Bale's absence that the letter from the Commissioners to PECO regarding positive energy was recently mailed under the signature of the Township Manager.

4. Old Business: Mr. Havir reported in more detail on the Riparian Buffer Replanting, Phase II scheduled for November 14, 2009 at Curtis Park funded through a Tree Vitalize Grant of \$15,000.

Nancy Minich of NAM Planning & Design was hired to oversee selection, purchase of plant material

and for planting oversight of the project. Broadcast spraying for eradication of invasive plant material species took place on September 1, 2009 and is scheduled again on October 1, 2009.

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 is awaiting an award letter authorizing the approval of the proposed expenditure of the block grant as follows: \$71,000 for a boiler at Rowland Community Center; \$24,000 for automatic controls at Rowland and Lamott Community Centers and \$10,000 for lighting at Rowland Community Center.

Mr. Duffy reported that the Glenside Street Fair is scheduled for this Saturday, September 26, 2009. The EAC needs volunteers for table. Mr. De Maria will be donating a homemade rain barrel and t-composter both of which will be raffled.

Mr. Duffy also stated that Harvest Festival is scheduled for October 10, 2009 from noon to 5 p.m. at Curtis Arboretum. Arcadia University students have volunteered for the EAC table.

Mr. Havir reported that the EAC recommendations for Glenside Elementary School project were forwarded to Dr. Kiefer, Cheltenham Township School District Superintendent.

Mr. De Maria stated that he would like to work with the EAC regarding energy conservation initiatives. Mr. De Maria said he was asked at a Public Works Meeting, to write up one to two pages of the four to six efforts he would like to work on with the Township for presentation at a future Public Works Meeting. The EAC had asked Mr. De Maria to briefly enumerate some of those efforts. Mr. De Maria briefly recapped some of his proposed alternative energy initiatives. Ms. Carroll, stated that both Mr. De Maria and she were working to clarify some of the many projects he would like to have the Township work on and prioritize them. Ms. Carroll hopes to break it up into 3-4 projects even though they link. Ms. Carroll and Mr. De Maria are reviewing and editing their written response for presentation at a future EAC meeting for review.

5. New Business - Mr. Havir stated that the Department of Environmental Protection Coastal Zone Management Grant has become extremely competitive. Mr. Havir is looking for something more innovative and recommended submitting for up to \$50,000 in funds to help offset the Township's commitment for the Meadow Restoration project at High School Park. A public education and outreach component is needed and he will meet with the Friends of High School Park to refine the scope of work for the grant narrative. The EAC offered suggestions and unanimously recommended that the Public Work committee authorize filing of the project for CZM grant funding.

Mr. McHugh spoke of a proposed petition being circulated to reinstate the R8 railroad line that used to run to Newtown from Fox Chase. The petition asks for a moratorium to stop the line from being destroyed; and fund a study to get the former rail line electrified and running again. The R8 would help Cheltenham and Jenkintown. Mr. McHugh appealed to the EAC to ask Cheltenham Township Board of Commissioners to consider adopting a resolution, similar to a resolution adopted by Southampton, in support of the petitions objectives. Ms. Carroll made a motion to ask the Cheltenham Township Board of Commissioners to refer to Resolution No. 20305 written by the Upper Southampton Township and create a resolution similar to that. Mr. McHugh agreed to help Mr. Havir draft a sample resolution, a copy of which is attached.

6. Other Business - Mr. Havir announced PEC Delaware River Ecological Restoration Workshop is scheduled for September 30, 2009.

7. The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for October 19, 2009 at the Township Administration Building.



David G. Kraynik,
Township Manager

Submitted by:
Kathryn McDevitt

RESOLUTION NO. __-__

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING A NEW REVIEW BY THE PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, MONTGOMERY COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION, DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION, AND SOUTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY, OF THE REINSTATEMENT OF REGIONAL RAIL SERVICE TO POINTS BETWEEN FOX CHASE AND NEWTOWN BOROUGH

WHEREAS, reinstatement of regional rail service on the SEPTA route R8 North of Fox Chase will help to insure the continued use, maintenance, rider security and viability of the Cheltenham, and Lawndale Stations located on the Eastern border of Cheltenham Township; and

WHEREAS, the rate of development throughout the Newtown R8 Rail Line corridor has consistently been among the highest in Pennsylvania for over forty years and is expected to continue into the future; and

WHEREAS, exceptionally high growth rates of housing development and population in areas of Montgomery and Bucks Counties formally serviced by the R8 Rail Line North of Fox Chase has caused crowded trains and a severe lack of parking for riders forced to use stations of the R2 and R3 Rail Lines that run through the Glenside, Jenkintown-Wyncote, Elkins Park, and Melrose Park Stations in Cheltenham Township, as well as the remaining R8 trains through Fox Chase, Ryers, Cheltenham and Lawndale Stations servicing the Eastern portion of Cheltenham Township; and

WHEREAS, traffic congestion and travel delays in the suburban areas of Southeastern Pennsylvania adversely affect the movement of people and goods throughout the region; and

WHEREAS, sound planning principles indicate a growing need to expand the use of regional commuter rail systems to improve mobility and overall air quality; and

WHEREAS, the March 2009 DVRPC Green House Gas (GHG) Emissions Study has determined that per capita GHG emissions are significantly higher in the outer suburbs due to increased use of automobiles as compared to the inner suburbs; and

WHEREAS, the existing R8 right-of-way, recognized as an asset to our regional transportation system, has been allowed to deteriorate over time and even be dismantled by other parties for purposes other than regional commuter rail at a time when energy costs and environmental concerns have led local, state and federal leaders to call for reduced vehicle miles traveled (VMT) and increased use of regional commuter rail;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of the Township of Cheltenham, County of Montgomery, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

that the Board of Commissioners hereby publicly states its support for cooperative effort with other municipalities in the region, the County of Montgomery, and the business community, for the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority, the Montgomery County Planning Commission and the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation to conduct a new review of the plans for and benefits of reinstatement of regional rail service on the existing right-of-way of the R8 Line north of Fox Chase to Newtown, Pennsylvania.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing Resolution was adopted by the Board of Commissioners of the Township of Cheltenham, County of Montgomery, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, at its meeting held at Curtis Hall, 1250 W. Church Road, Wyncote Pennsylvania 19095 on this __ day of October, 2009.

TOWNSHIP OF CHELTENHAM
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

By: _____
Paul R. Greenwald, President

ATTEST:

By: _____
David G. Kraynik, Secretary and
Township Manager

