

The meeting of the Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) was held tonight. Members present were Kurt Ahrens, Yuri Berg, Brad Pransky, Linda Foggie and Lorna Rosenberg, Ex-officio members present were Doryan DeAngel, Janet Starwood and Beth Yount. Township Liaison present was Nancy K. Gibson, Public Information Officer. Guests present were Bridgett Chadwick, Kelsey LeClair, Julie Slavet and Alexander Zorach. See attached attendance sheet.

1. **Call to Order:** Ms. Rosenberg called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.
2. **Acceptance of Meeting Minutes:** Mr. Berg made a motion to accept the minutes of October 21, 2014 meeting; seconded by Mr. Ahrens. The motion was unanimously approved.
3. **Introductions:** Ms. Rosenberg greeted the guests and asked everyone to introduce themselves. Ms. Rosenberg gave a brief overview of the Sustainability Plan and the sub-committees formed around the sustainability goals.

4. Committee Reports:

A. Communications and Engagement Committee: Mr. Ahrens invited suggestions on how to engage the community about sustainability. He noted the last EAC newsletter included a question and answer section to which one person responded. Also, of the 1,126 newsletters sent, 346 were opened and 218 bounced back. Ms. Slavet noted that the open rate was very good. The newsletter generally lists upcoming events and at least one article related to a sustainability goal. Mr. Ahrens would like a section for subcommittee contributions and requested assistance from ex-officio members to assist as volunteers. Mr. Zorach inquired about a Twitter account. Mr. Ahrens indicated that the EAC is waiting for the Township to adopt a social media policy.

B. Water and Ecology Committee: Ms. Rosenberg noted that Ms. Duffy was attending a steering committee meeting for the Curtis Arboretum Landscape and Management Plan. Ms. Slavet, of Tookany-Tacony/ Frankford Watershed Partnership (TTF), reported that the Water and

Ecology sub-committee has set a standard time to meet on the second Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m.. She also reported that students recently marked 30 storm drain inlets at Cheltenham High School. The effort included canvassing the immediate area and leaving door hangers with information on storm drains. The event will be featured in the school newspaper. It was suggested to reprint the article in both the EAC and TTF newsletters. Mr. Ahrens also suggested approaching Arcadia University about conducting a similar endeavor on its campus.

Ms. Slavet noted that TTF applied for Tree Vitalize Watershed Project Programs for invasive plant removal and tree plantings in the buffer areas behind the Elkins Park School above the creek and other locations. TTF will work on creating a swale and rain garden at Abington Friends School and green stormwater infrastructure along Jenkintown Creek on the Sisters of St. Basil property. Ms. Slavet mentioned TTF's recent Backyard with Benefits Project to improve riparian buffers on private properties in Cheltenham. Notices were sent to the 900 buffer properties in the Township; 20 to 30 property owners expressed interest in participating and five properties were selected for the November 2, 2014 planting event. A tour of these properties is planned for late spring and will be posted at the Arts in the Park Festival.

C. School Liaison Committee: Ms. Rosenberg submitted her report (see attached). Ms. Rosenberg noted that a presentation on policies for the greening of Cheltenham schools will be made to district officials on December 2.

D. Energy and Emissions Committee: Mr. McHugh was not present to submit his report. However, Ms. Rosenberg reported that a husband and wife team who are transportation engineers have volunteered to help with bikeability and walkability suggestions for the community. Ms. Rosenberg will host a meeting in her home on Thursday, November 20.

5. Old Business:

A. *Discussion about Complete Streets/Mobility:* Ms. Chadwick reviewed a Complete Streets website that reported over 600 communities have adopted Complete Streets policies; about half did so through Resolutions. She noted that Complete Streets policies could coordinate with existing Township plans such as the 2005 Comprehensive Plan and Sustainability Plan. Ms. Slavet added the Cheltenham Trail Master Plan. Ms. Chadwick provided Ms. Rosenberg with results from her research.

B. *Discussion of an Ad Hoc Water Conservation Committee* – Ms. Rosenberg noted that a sewer rate fee change that will become effective in 2015 is an opportunity for an EAC water conservation campaign since the fee will be partly based on water usage. Members brainstormed some ideas: a) host a School District Poster Contest; b) approach Home Depot about providing residents with discounts on WaterSense or Energy Star fixtures; c) promote a water conservation theme at AIP and d) hold meetings at a library about WaterSense labeled products. Ms. Gibson noted that, for a small additional cost, water conservation information could be placed on the reverse side of a special mailing about the sewer rate change going to residents soon. Mr. Pransky made a motion for the EAC to cover the additional cost; seconded by Mr. Berg. The motion was unanimously approved. Ms. Foggie agreed to serve on the Ad Hoc Water Conservation Committee.

Mr. Zorach asked if the Township has a policy requiring low-flow water fixtures in Township-owned facilities. Mr. Ahrens noted that this could be part of the Sustainability Plan goal for monitoring progress.

C. *Discussion about Township Recycling FAQs.* Ms. Yount met with the Bill Ferrari, Township Refuse/Recycling Supervisor, to review the RE-Community Recycling “Dirty Dozen” information. Mr. Ferrari noted that recycling contamination increased with volume. Ms. Yount

reported that Mr. Ferrari said that ice cream containers are recyclable; clean aluminum foil may be recycled if shaped into a ball; glass jars without lids are recyclable; snap-on lids with a recycle code are recyclable; telephone books are recyclable; metal screw-on lids are not recyclable; shredded paper is not recyclable; frozen food containers with silver coating are not recyclable; and hangars are not recyclable. A suggestion was made to feature three recycling FAQs in the EAC Newsletter and a complete list on the Township website.

6. New Business:

A. Ms. Rosenberg noted that the EAC has not done a good job of educating other citizen committees about the Sustainability Plan. Ms. Rosenberg would like to present short, targeted discussions with each Township committee in 2015.

B. Ms. Rosenberg announced that the Friends of High School Park are starting to plan Arts in the Park scheduled for June 7, 2015. The EAC will need to determine deadlines for nominations and selections for 2015 Sustainability Awards.

C. Ms. Rosenberg discussed EAC membership terms that will be expiring at the end of 2014 and mentioned the need to select new Chairperson. All expiring terms will be discussed at the next meeting.

D. Ms. Slavet noted that TTF sent a letter of concern to the Board of Commissioners about its plans to sell a five-acre parcel on Cheltenham Avenue near the headwaters for Rock Creek, which is extremely compromised. Mr. Pransky responded that the parcel is one of few undeveloped properties located in a commercial district, and the Township urgently needs additional commercial revenues to offset residential taxes. Mr. Pransky invited Ms. Slavet to provide specific issues about protecting the waterway during the development process. Mr. Pransky asked to have a copy of the letter sent to him. Ms. Slavet suggested the Township

explore if the state could provide resources to preserve this area. Ms. Rosenberg suggested the EAC consider a letter of support for the TTF position at the next meeting.

E. Ms. Rosenberg noted that a Sustainability Plan measurements report is due by the EAC.

F. Ms. Starwood suggested that the EAC review potential conflicts between native plantings and Township ordinances that regulate weed control. She could provide model ordinances. She also recommended revisiting the idea of becoming an Audubon Bird Town and suggested a presentation on the topic in January.

7. Adjournment: Mr. Pransky made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Ahrens. The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.



Bryan T. Havir
Township Manager

Submitted by:
Kathy McDevitt

CHELTENHAM TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL-
Schools Report

Committee: Schools Committee

Liaison to the Council: Lorna Rosenberg

Date of last meeting: November 3, 2014

Date of next meeting: **November 24, 2014**

Questions for the board/larger group:

Action Items Completed:

Action Items In-progress/Pending:

- Wyncote School: with approval from facilities director Ray Bavi, Gilbert Architects will be approaching Wyncote students to learn about the green features of their school and create the wording for permanent signage that will be installed on the exterior of the school describing the green features.
- Glenside School: Parents, the United Parents Group and Randye Gordon, Librarian are working with students to increase the recycling rate at the building.
- December 2, 2014 - Presentation to the School Board on "Greening of Cheltenham Schools - Green Ribbon 2016" -this will be a multi-media presentation with students and the schools committee to encourage the district to create a Green Team and adopt a policy and program that support - efficient facilities, greater health and wellness and more environmental / sustainability education.
- CHS: continued work on the recycling plan by students, the solar hot water for the gym and the cafeteria has been installed.

Announcements:

EAC should attend the School Board Facilities Meeting at the School Administration Building at 7:00 December 2, 2014 - Presentation to the School Board on "Greening of Cheltenham Schools - Green Ribbon 2016"