

March 16, 2009
Township Administration Building

The regular meeting of the Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) was held tonight. Voting members present were Daryl Carrington, Mary Beth Carroll, Barbara Duffy, Miriam Moss, Lorna Rosenberg and David McVeigh-Schultz. Non-voting (ex-Officio) member present was: Thomas Bale. Others Present: Dottie Baumgarten and Jeannette Noorman. Staff present: Bryan T. Havir, Assistant Township Manager.

1. Call to Order - Ms. Duffy called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.
2. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes - Upon motion of Mr. Schultz and seconded by Ms. Moss, the EAC accepted the February 23, 2009 meeting minutes as submitted.
3. Committee Reports were as follows: A. Communications Committee - Ms. Carroll reported that the EAC sent out its first instant contact e-mail blast to 329 people with at least 149 e-mails being opened by recipients. Contacts were gathered from High School Park, Weavers Way and Creekside Co-op contact lists. Most popular was the Cheltenham Township Website and the article entitled, My Footprints. The members were pleased with the announcement. Ms. Carroll felt that the next quarterly e-mail blast should have a subject line which is more enticing. Ms. Carroll mentioned that the website is set up for a 500 contact capacity which has been budgeted. If the contacts exceed 500, the budget will need to be increased but this can be monitored during the first year. Discussion continued on ways to utilize the website efficiently which included providing links in the e-mail blast for other environmental projects or organizations. Ms. Carroll reported that all correspondence must go through the

Cheltenham Township Public Information Officer for an internal review before being sent to the public.

B. Education/Building Committee – Ms. Rosenberg and Mr. Schultz reported on the following: A Workshop was held on February 24, 2009 concerning greening Local Building Codes, sponsored by EPA, DEP and DVRPC. Sixty people attended. Speakers included Ms. Shapiro, an attorney from Philadelphia; an attorney from Babylon, NY who shared how a local ordinance allowed funds from municipal waste to be used to create low interest loans and grants for households and a representative from Carrington, VA, who shared a model ordinance which provided bonus densities, if you build green.

A Home Efficiency Design Speakers Series has been developed with the first presentation entitled, “Lowering Your Carbon Footprint”, which took place on Wednesday March 4, 2009 at the Elkins Park Library. Twenty –seven people attended. Ms. Rosenberg noted that those attending the presentations were a sophisticated group who were serious about energy initiatives.

A Workshop on Energy Alternatives – Solar Thermal Energy for Homeowners, is scheduled for March 25, 2009 at the Elkins Park Library. Posters were distributed to Arcadia University; e-mails were sent and information can be found on the website.

Mr. Schultz stated that federal tax credits are in place up to \$1,500.00 for energy conservation and efficiency initiatives for new businesses. Additional incentives are provided through participation with PECO, Pennsylvania Electrical Association, and PA Home Energy.

Mr. Schultz reported that energy audits were recently completed on two residential properties in the Township. Test results are in. The video-taping of the audits has been completed and it is being edited for a 20-25 minute presentation for Channel 42.

Mr. Schultz discussed the federal stimulus plan and the new proposed Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program, which provides funding for municipalities over 35,000 in population for eligible energy efficiency and conservation projects. The townships of Cheltenham, Abington and Lower Merion would be eligible for federal funds. There is an approved list of eligible activities that was released by the federal government. The EAC is looking forward to working with the Township Administration over the next two months in developing a proposal since the grant applications are due on or before June 25, 2009.

The EAC suggested developing an action plan for the Township. Mr. Schultz volunteered to review the greenhouse gas emissions data recently received by Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) and to breakout the statistics.

Mr. Schultz reported that he had recently met with Dr. Robert M. Wirtshafter, Ph.D. and he shared his qualifications with the committee. Dr. Wirtshafter has volunteered to conduct energy efficient audits for non-profits in the past and has agreed to provide pro bono professional services to the Township for auditing three buildings: Rowland Community Center, LaMott Community Center and the Cheltenham Arts Center.

Mr. Schultz made a motion to recommend to the Public Works Committee to permit Mr. Wirtshafter to perform energy audits "pro bono" for the LaMott and Rowland

Community Centers and Cheltenham Arts Center. Ms. Moss seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Ms. Rosenberg reported that Tom Petersen, an environmental engineer asked if the EAC could provide a speaker for a future seminar, Greening Your Business with Return on Investment through Recycling and Energy Efficiency. Ms. Rosenberger will follow up on this request.

C. Energy Committee - Mr. Bale would like to have 9-12 people participate in a focus group on March 26, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. on Sustainable Household Support Groups. Mr. Bale stated that the information was mailed to interested parties and that he will follow up with phone calls.

Ms. Duffy reported that Mr. Mettler had been asked to represent the EAC at the Wyncote Neighborhood Group Meeting scheduled for this evening, March 16, 2009 to discuss the proposed SEPTA Parking Garage.

D. Transportation Committee - In Ms. Chadwick's absence, Ms. Duffy reported she attended the proposed SEPTA Parking Garage Meeting on February 24, 2009 at the Cheltenham High School. She characterized that residents were angry and negative. The format of that meeting did not allow her the opportunity to present the EAC's concerns. However, she did share a copy of the EAC's concerns with SEPTA's Public Relations Department.

Mr. Havir mentioned that Greater Valley Forge Transportation Management Association (GVFTMA) is sponsoring a commuter competition in Eastern Montgomery County and has asked interested partners to look at ways to encourage employees to conserve energy and to carpool, use bikes, and to walk to work instead of drive as a

single occupant in a vehicle. A motion was made by Ms. Moss and seconded by Ms. Rosenberg to have the EDTF /Main Street Manager contact businesses to get their employees involved. Motion was unanimous.

E. Watershed Committee –Ms. Duffy reported on the following:

Ralph Morgan Park Spring Events:

- Spring Park Clean Up on March 28 9-12 Noon (Rain date: April 4th)
- 13th Annual Spring Egg Hunt 1-3 PM

Earth Day Cleanups on April 18th at the following Township parks:

- Grove Park (sponsored by Friends of Grove Park)
- Both ends of Tookany Parkway (sponsored by Rotary Club, EP & CHS teachers, Girl Scouts and possibly new friends of Tookany Parkway)
- Parkview Park (sponsored by Girls Scouts and neighbors)
- Melrose Park and/or Coventry Park (sponsored by MPNA)
- High School Park (sponsored by HS Park)
- Renninger Park (sponsored by Girl Scouts)
- John Russell Park (sponsored by LaMott Civic Association)
- Thomas Williams (sponsored by Friends of TW)

Other Projects on April 18th:

- Trail Improvements behind Boy Scout Cabin on Tookany Parkway (sponsored by Boy Scouts)
- Prep for Riparian Buffer Planting at Glenside Elementary (sponsored by TTF Partnership & Arcadia students)
- Eagle Scout Project at Twickenham/Laverock Garden
- Composting Demonstration at Elkins Park (sponsored by Elkins Estate)

Earth Day Festival:

This year there is reduce, recycle and reuse. The event will be held on April 25, 2009 (co-hosted by Cheltenham Township Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) and Cedarbrook Middle School) between 10 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Mr. Havar confirmed that

the Township will have one of its recycling trucks at the event from 10:00 a.m. to 2:15 p.m.

A copy of a letter from Mr. Boyd regarding interpretation of the Lenape Name Tookany was made available at the meeting. This matter will be tabled for later discussion on the proposed project involving the naming of the unnamed tributaries.

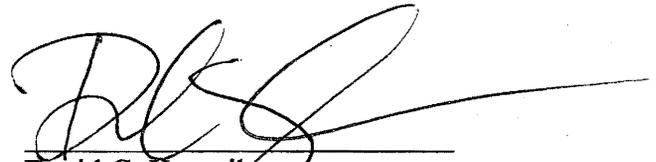
4. New Business – Mr. Havir provided an updated status report on the final draft plan of the High School and Ogontz Park Master Plan for Ecological Restoration. He reported that the final plan is scheduled for adoption by the Board of Commissioners at its March 17, 2009 meeting based on the recommendation of the Public Works Committee Meeting last week. He noted that the steering committee which was chaired by Amy Steffan worked with the Forbes Environmental and Land Use Planning consultant team over a period of seventeen months to develop the plan. Mr. Havir provided an overview of the implementation projects outlined in Chapter 7. He thanked Ms. Duffy for participating on behalf of the EAC. He noted that by adopting the final master plan, the Township would be eligible to apply to DCNR for an implementation grant this year for a project listed in the plan. Applications are due on April 21, 2009.

5. Old Business –Mr. Schultz reported that four Cheltenham EAC members attended the 12th Annual Southeast PA EAC Conference held March 14, 2009. Mr. Schultz submitted a receipt and requested reimbursement in the amount of \$60.00. Mr. Havir will verify with PEC to determine if the Township is a member and should have been eligible for a reduction in the fee assessed to the participants.

Mr. Carrington stated that Temple University, Ambler Campus has an appropriate restoration design program which the Township might be interested in exploring.

Mr. Carrington made a motion to have the Township Administration set up a meeting with Mary Meyers, a professor at Temple University, who is directing an Environmental Sustainability Initiative. Mary Beth Carroll seconded the motion which was unanimous.

6. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 P.M



David G. Kraynik,
Township Manager

Submitted by Kathy McDevitt

