

January 26, 2009
7:30 p.m.
Richard Wall House

The regular meeting of the **ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL** ("EAC") was held tonight. Voting members present were Barbara Duffy, Bill Mettler, David McVeigh-Schultz, Lorna Rosenberg, Mary Beth Carroll and K. Daryl Carrington. Also present was Mary Washington, Tom Bale and Jim Innes. Staff present: Bryan T. Havir, Assistant Township Manager.

1. **Call to Order.** Reorganization meeting was called to order by Mr. Havir at 7:30 p.m. Mr. Havir opened the floor for nominations for Chairperson and Vice Chairperson. Upon motion by Ms. Rosenberg and seconded by Mr. Mettler, Barbara Duffy was nominated as Chairperson and David Schultz was nominated as Vice Chairperson. No other nominations were offered and Mr. Havir closed the floor for nominations. It was the unanimous consensus of those present to approve the nomination as presented. At this time, Ms. Duffy assumed the Chair position.

2. **Approval of Minutes.** Upon motion of Mr. Rosenberg, seconded by Mr. Mettler, the December 15, 2008 minutes were accepted as submitted.

3. **Under Committee Reports**, the following matters were discussed:

A. Watershed Committee

1) **Creek Naming-** Ms. Duffy and Mr. Havir discussed the status of the project of naming the unnamed tributaries in the Township. Mr. Havir reported that the Historical Commission at its meeting earlier this month upon collaboration with the Old York Road Historical Society recommended two changes to the proposed names of water bodies on the east side of the Township. Based on the initial proposed names on the attached map, it was recommended that:

- a. The proposed Grayden Creek be called Burholme Creek
- b. The proposed Meyers Creek be called Milltown Creek

It was noted the map will need to be revised and placed on the Township's Website for additional comment. Mr. Havir stated that another press release should be developed in order to obtain additional support and feedback on this project.

At this time Mrs. Washington said upon her research of the old historic Sanborn maps, she discovered other water bodies throughout the Township that were unnamed and she proposed to do additional research to see if she could determine names for them. The EAC recommended that the committee continue its research and that the public comment period deadline be extended indefinitely until the committee is completely satisfied that its research is 100% complete.

2) Earth Day Activities – Ms. Duffy stated that a meeting is scheduled at Cedarbrook Middle School on February 13, 2009 to develop the schedule for this year's Earth Day Activities which are to be held on Saturday, April 18, 2009. She will provide an update of the committee's recommendations next month.

3) Green America Awards Program – Ms. Duffy offered two possible project suggestions for this awards program as follows:

- Creating community gardens and/or implementing storm water improvements at Robinson Park, Wyncote.
- Improving Riparian Buffer and Habitat at Coventry Park, Melrose Park.

It was noted that this awards program offers municipalities a maximum of \$2,000.00 for the purchase of native plant material. Ms. Duffy agreed to work with Township staff to formulate a proposal of the awards program guidelines. The application is due April 1, 2009.

4) Wissahickon Watershed Update. - Mr. Mettler reported on the meeting he attended earlier this month explaining that the focus of the presentation was on how municipalities can develop projects to slow down storm water on a regional basis.

B. Energy Committee

1) Public Education Proposed for Climate Change. Mr. Bale provided an update on the committee's approach for developing public education to encourage Township residents to modify their daily habits and behavior in order to change their carbon footprint as well as reduce energy costs in their homes. The format for the public education is meeting in small neighborhood groups with a member of the energy committee making a presentation. The concept would include a property owner and/or resident agreeing to sign a pledge of commitment. The committee proposes to award people with incentives for changing their behavior. Such behaviors include purchasing compact fluorescent light bulbs; purchasing energy star appliances, etc. which can reduce energy costs in their homes as well as reducing one's carbon footprint. The committee offered other examples to encourage a reduction in one's carbon footprint such as eating less red meat or bicycling instead of using an automobile.

2) Lecture Series - Upon motion by Mr. Schultz and seconded by Mr. Mettler, the EAC agreed to support a lecture series event with the first being scheduled on March 4, 2009 to be presented by Ben Adams. The topic being, "Lowering Your Carbon Footprint." The committee will follow up with new details at the next monthly meeting.

At this time, Ms. Rosenberg discussed EPA's new business program and Mr. Schultz discussed how e-map is also a new program which provides technical support to small business owners encouraging them to reduce their carbon footprint. Mr. Mettler suggested a venue that would include monthly movies or videos sponsored by the EAC to be shown at the LaMott and Rowland Community Centers or libraries. The topics could include alternatives to transportation and reducing greenhouse gases.

Upon question asked of Ms. Rosenberg, she indicated that DEP has not yet announced its decision on the greenhouse gas mitigation joint grant application submitted by Montgomery County and Cheltenham Township.

C. Buildings Committee

Ms. Rosenberg reported on the educational video production program which the building committee is working on in conjunction with the Cheltenham High School Video Club instructor, Mr. Joe Volpe. The intent is to have a volunteer project team visit two residences in the Township and conduct energy audits as a case study. The audits would be video-taped on February 23, 2009. Recommendations will be made for making the residences more efficient based on the audits.

D. Transportation Committee

Ms. Duffy stated that in the absence of Ms. Chadwick, there is no report.

4. Old Business

It was the consensus to add a fifth committee which will be listed on next month's Meeting Agenda to be known as the Communications Committee, chaired by Ms. Carroll.

At this time, Ms. Carroll asked the committee chairs to prepare a mission statement for their respective committee.

Upon recommendation of Ms. Carroll, it was the consensus of the EAC to request that all EAC minutes be placed on the Township's Website.

5. New Business

A. Wind Energy Presentation - Jim Innes made a presentation on the feasibility of siting wind facilities and/or turbines in the Township. He discussed the benefits for doing so and offered to perform a wind assessment on township properties to determine if any of them would be adequate for siting such a facility. It was suggested that the leaf compost facility on Waverly Road may be an ideal location and offered to erect a Met station at his own cost (\$1,000 to \$2,000) to collect data. The EAC recommended that the concept be referred to the Energy Committee and that Mr. Innes refine his proposal with the intent to report back to the committee at a later time.

B. FYP 2009 for Coastal Committee Initiative. Mr. Havir reported on this grant program and said he asked the Executive Director of Tookany-Frankford Water Partnership to help in identifying a regional project that would be applicable.

6. **Other Announcements** - Messer's Mettler and Schultz said they will be attending the February 5, 2009 presentation on Global Warming at Arcadia University as Cheltenham Township's representatives.

7. **Meeting adjourned** by Ms. Duffy at 9:30 p.m. The next EAC meeting is scheduled for February 23, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. at the Richard Wall House.



David G. Kraynik
Township Manager

As per Bryan T. Havir
Assistant Township Manager

