

The reorganization meeting of the Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) was held tonight. Members present were Kurt Ahrens, Brad Pransky, Tom McHugh and Lorna Rosenberg. Ex-officio members present were Doryan DeAngel and Bonnie Hay. Township Liaison present was Nancy K. Gibson, Public Information Officer. Guests present were David McVeigh-Schultz and Julie Slavet. See attached attendance sheet.

1. **Call to Order:** Ms. Gibson called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m.
2. **Reorganization** – Ms. Gibson opened the floor for nominations for chairperson. Mr. Pransky nominated Mr. Ahrens. No other nominations were received from the floor, so upon motion of Mr. Pransky; seconded by Ms. Rosenberg, the nominations were closed. Mr. Ahrens was unanimously elected Chair for 2015 and assumed the chair. Mr. Ahrens opened the floor for nominations for vice chair. Mr. McHugh nominated Ms. Rosenberg. No other nominations were received from the floor, so upon motion of Mr. Pransky; seconded by Mr. McHugh, the nominations were closed. Ms. Rosenberg was unanimously elected Vice Chair for 2015.
3. **Acceptance of Meeting Minutes:** Ms. Rosenberg made a motion to accept the minutes of November 17, 2014 meeting; seconded by Mr. Pransky. The motion was unanimously approved.
4. **Committee Reports:**

A. Communications and Engagement Committee: Mr. Ahrens proposed to allocate time at each regular meeting to outline content of the upcoming EAC e-newsletter. Mr. Pransky inquired about audience. Mr. Ahrens responded that 900 people have signed up to receive the newsletter. Mr. Pransky suggested sending the newsletter to the School District Communication Director Susan O’Grady and requested EAC members to forward it to neighbors.

Mr. McHugh volunteered to contribute a few sentences on the Tookany Creek Flood Control Feasibility Study conducted by the United State Army Corp of Engineers (USACE). He

also offered to provide information on the long-term average monthly cost of BTU equivalents for natural gas and electricity. Mr. Pransky suggested including information on recycling. Ms. Gibson noted that the Township's upcoming spring newsletter will feature a major article about the Township's single-stream recycling program. She will email Mr. Ahrens fliers from ReCommunity Recycling, the company that receives the Township's recycling material, about what materials should and should not be recycled. The EAC could also provide a link to the Township newsletter. Ms. Slavet added that the EAC could provide links to the Tookany-Tacony/Frankford Watershed Partnership (TTF) calendar. Ms. Rosenberg stated that she will prepare a piece regarding Arts in the Park in June. The submission deadline for items in the next EAC Newsletter is March 8, 2015.

Ms. Gibson would like the Township's Facebook page, which launched at the beginning of the year, to feature postings everyday. Ms. Gibson suggested that the EAC offer something like "Sustainable Sundays," which could be programmed in advance. Members supported the idea, so Ms. Gibson asked members to supply short items to be featured.

B. Water and Ecology Committee: Mr. Ahrens noted that Ms. Duffy was attending a conflicting Pennsylvania Environmental Council program tonight. (See attached report). The EAC was invited to participate in the Downtown Glenside Arts Festival on April 25, 2015. Discussion ensued about what the EAC will showcase at that event.

Ms. Slavet announced that TTF will be holding clean-up projects, removal of invasives and deer fencing repair at Parkview Park this spring for Earth Day. Mr. McHugh mentioned the final draft of the USACE Tookany Creek Flood Control Feasibility Study, which is being reviewed by the Steering Committee and Township Staff, focuses on using dry detention basins with earthen berms. Mr. McHugh felt that the USACE did a good job. Mr. McVeigh-Schultz

inquired about the Glenside Flood Study Project. Mr. McHugh responded that the project may be impacted by the USACE study.

C. School Liaison Committee: Ms. Rosenberg submitted her report (See attached). Ms. Rosenberg announced that a lot of interest is coalescing around “green” themes in the District. The Wyncote Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) is creating a survey to assess faculty interest in “green” features of the new building, and students are being nurtured as green ambassadors. The principal and students of Cheltenham High School met with Waste Management. A meeting is scheduled with Dr. Kiefer on February 25, 2015. Ms. Slavet offered to help with curriculum programs and mentioned that the Philadelphia Water Works offers a similar curriculum.

D. Energy and Emissions Committee: Mr. McHugh reported that he wanted to revisit the idea of energy auctions to supply the Township’s energy needs and would like to invite a representative of Premier Energy Auctions to an EAC meeting to explain more about the program and its benefits.

Mr. McHugh reviewed an earlier volunteer bikeability/walkability study to improve safe ways to travel in the community. More recently, a group including several EAC members met with new residents who are transportation engineers who volunteered their expert input on the subject. This group submitted a proposal for installing sharrows, which are pictograms of a bicycle and chevrons painted on the roadway, on 23 “dream streets” in the Township. Township Staff thoroughly investigated the proposal and responded with lengthy concerns about cost and liability. The group is now considering requesting a trial site along Tookany Creek Parkway, which is both a gateway and a destination. Mr. Ahrens asked the group what would define a successful trial project, but no answer was provided. Ms. Slavet suggested the EAC should monitor the Township’s Tookany Creek Trail Master Plan.

5. Old Business:

A. Discussion about Township Recycling Education: Ms. Gibson reported that the upcoming newsletter article incorporates feedback provided by Ms. Yount per the last EAC meeting and was approved by Re-Community Recycling to ensure accuracy.

B. Discussion about Educating Citizen Committees: Mr. Aherns will seek volunteers via email for an ad hoc subcommittee to work on an outreach effort to educate other citizen advisory committees about the Sustainability Plan.

6. New Business:

A. Membership Terms: No EAC membership terms expired in January 2015.

B. Discussion about an Annual Sustainability Report: Ms. Rosenberg proposed a one-page bullet list organized according to the 10 Sustainability Goals. She will work on the report.

C. Sustainable Cheltenham at Arts in the Park: Ms. Rosenberg reported work is underway for this year's event on June 7, 2015.

7. Announcements:

A. Township Facebook: As Ms. Gibson previously noted, the Township Facebook page was launched at the beginning of the year.

B. Ms. Gibson announced that Cheltenham Township was recognized as a "Communities in Motion Star!" for Sustainable Cheltenham by the Greater Valley Forge Transportation Management Association in December 2014.

C. Ms. Gibson announced that the Montgomery County Planning Commission is seeking four partners who want to examine the walkability of their communities and consider how to improve their pedestrian habitat. Cheltenham Township is applying to participate.

February 23, 2015, 7:30 p.m.
Carriage House

D. Ms. Slavett announced a rain barrel workshop on February 25, 2015 at Rowland Community Center and watershed education for teachers on March 4 at Abington Friends School.

E. Ms. Rosenberg announced an Arcadia University Green Schools Panel Workshop on April 8. She will email information to EAC members.

8. Adjournment: Ms. Rosenberg made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. McHugh. The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m.



Bryan T. Havir
Township Manager

Submitted by:
Kathy McDevitt

EAC Schools Committee

February 9, 2015 Action Minutes from the Cheltenham EAC Schools Committee

Wyncote : Forming a Green Team- Parents are creating a survey monkey poll to assess faculty interest in the "green" features of the new building. PTO and Challenge Teacher Kristen Krause is nurturing a group of students for green ambassadors and on signage for the new building.

- Lorna will arrange a tour date with architect and Dr. Bavi for PTO/ teachers to tour the new school in the spring
- Interest in using ECO SCHOOLS as framework for their green school <http://www.nwf.org/Eco-Schools-USA/Become-an-Eco-School.aspx>
 - Meeting with Dr Kiefer – Superintendent on February 25 @ 8:15 am

Cheltenham ES – Principal Perez is determining a point person to be a part of our committee in addition to Marilyn Golden.

Green Tips – they are needed from each school community for the Cheltenham weekly email from Sue O'Grady. She is happy to send them out with a logo created by students! Send them to Lorna – she will forward to Sue.

Grid Magazine – interested in article about our schools for August

Possible school tours during Election Day for the community.

Sustainable Cheltenham Festival – June 7, 2015 @ Arts in the Park – Lisa Donohue working on the Schools Corrdination.

Next meeting is March 9, 2015

CHELTENHAM ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL- February 23, 2015

Committee: Water & Ecology

Liaison to the Council: Barbara Duffy

Date of last meeting: February 9, 2015

Date of next meeting: March 9, 2015

Questions for the board/larger group:

Who can participate in the *Glenside Spring Festival at an EAC table on Saturday, April 25th?*

Please outreach to groups about hosting an Earth Day Project on the weekend of April 25th & 26th.

Action Items Completed:

Action Items In-progress/Pending:

- **TTF Partnership-** continuing work to review the 2003 Tookany Creek Watershed Management Plan (TCWMP) to note accomplishments and what we still need to target for future planning. TTF Partnership was awarded a Tree Vitalize grant for a tree planting at EP Middle School on the upper bank of the Tookany Creek behind the hockey court. This will be a fall 2015 planting- more info to come. TTF Partnership requesting that EAC pitch in some funds for herbicide application for Rock Lane Park- Barb Duffy requested via email that township look into using Joe Baxter, Parks Superintendent with assistance from someone from HS Park or TTF who can identify the invasive plant species that need to be sprayed. (No reply to the email at this time.) See upcoming TTF educational events listed below and visit their website for more details.
- **Earth Day Projects 2015: Target week in April 25th & 26th** - Spread the word if you know of a group that would like to participate by hosting a project. We have many parks and streets that could use some attention including basic clean ups or invasive removals.
- **Glenside Spring Festival-** Saturday, April 25th -a table for EAC is being reserved & coupons for Earth Day Project participants being created to offer a free Hot Dog or Pretzel & a soda at the festival.
- **Water Conservation Campaign-** to kick off at the Glenside Spring Festival & "Arts in the Park" events at the EAC/Sustainable Cheltenham tables. Intent is to educate residents about water saving tips to reduce their individual sewer rate, as per the sewer rate changes that started in January 2015.
- **Curtis Arboretum Master Plan-** last Steering Committee meeting was 11/17/14. Consultant is putting together plan ideas and working on a draft plan. Next meeting is March 26th
- **Invasive Controls with Public Works & Parks Superintendent** - committee wants to continue to work with Parks Superintendent on a plan for a routine springtime annual targeted mowing and spraying of planted riparian areas to decrease invasive takeover.
- **America in Bloom-** Committee met on 1/13/15 to finalize a draft plan for an Elkins Park Train Station planting. Planting plan will be sent to SEPTA by the end of February for review and comment, especially about the proposed plants and site access. If accepted, SEPTA will formally submit the proposal to the township for its approval. Anticipated planting dates are set for 10/10 and 10/11. Volunteers will be needed to do the plantings, as well as fundraising. (Some funds have been secured.)
- **Native Plant Ordinance** - Montco Planning is helping to locate the draft document.
- **"Herbicide Application Recommendations" Review-** a meeting to review the policy as per the "Monitoring" recommendations will be set for spring.
- **Flooding Projects (DEP & Army Corps)** - Army Corp Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for 2/19 to review the final draft of the Tookany Creek Watershed Flood Reduction Feasibility Study. W&E committee reviewed the draft with Tom McHugh and found it is consistent with some of 2003 TCWMP ideas and balanced flood reduction with water quality. (Tom McHugh is attending the meeting as Barb Duffy's alternate.)

Announcements:

Check out these websites for upcoming events-

HS Park Events: <http://highschoolpark.org>

TTF Watershed Partnership Events: <http://ttfwatershed.org/events/>

Upcoming TTF events include: "Be a Watershed hero at Home" at Cheltenham Adult School on Saturday, March 7th (sign up thru Adult School). Storm Draining Marking around La Mott CC on April 22nd. Backyard Buffer Education events- May 20th at Glenside Hall & May 21st at Creekside Coop. Backyard Buffer Tours- Sunday, June 21st - more info to come later

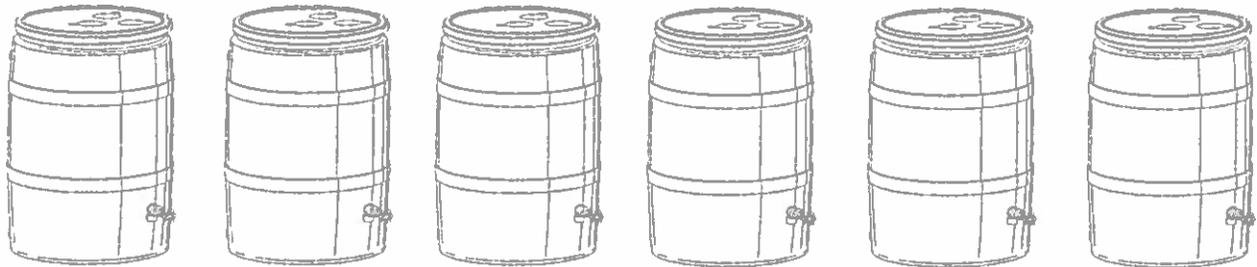
Host an Earth Day Project on the weekend of April 25th & 26th! Contact beduffy@comcast.net for details.

******W&E committee meets at the Friends of HS Park office every 2nd Monday of the month- all is welcome! ******

RAIN BARREL WORKSHOP

SLOW DOWN & SAVE WATER: INSTALL A RAIN BARREL AT HOME

Learn how you can save & manage water, an important natural resource!
TTF will present information on how rain barrels can improve water quality in our watershed and township...including Tookany Creek, right down the street from the Community Center!



Reserve a discounted rain barrel when you attend the presentation.

Wednesday, February 25
5:30 to 6:30 pm
-FREE-

ROWLAND COMMUNITY CENTER | 400 Myrtle Avenue
Cheltenham 19012

RSVP TO ALEX COOPER | cooper@ttfwatershed.org
215.744.1853



Tookany/Tacony-Frankford

Watershed Partnership, Inc.
ttfwatershed.org / 215.744.1853

