

The regular meeting of the Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) was held tonight. Members present were Kurt Ahrens, Yuri Berg, Barbara Duffy, Linda Foggie, Tom McHugh, Brad Pransky and Lorna Rosenberg. Ex-officio member present was Beth Yount. Township Liaison present was Nancy K. Gibson, Public Information Officer. Guests present were Cheltenham High School Environment Club members Valerie Melecio, Mark Shust and Liza Becker; Audubon Society representatives Leigh Altadonna and Tom Armstrong; and Dorothy Becker, Marvin Berman, Nancy Berman, Doryan DeAngel, Robert Hamburg and David McVeigh-Schultz. See attached attendance sheet.

1. **Call to Order:** Ms. Rosenberg called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.
2. **Welcome to Cheltenham student representatives:** Ms. Rosenberg provided a brief overview the workings and mission of the EAC, and everyone offered self introductions.
3. **Acceptance of Meeting Minutes:** Ms. Duffy made a motion to accept the minutes of the February 23, 2015 meeting; seconded by Ms. Rosenberg. The motion was unanimously approved.

4. Committee Reports:

A. Communications and Engagement Committee: Mr. Ahrens did not submit a report but announced the recent distribution of the March EAC e-Newsletter, which boasted a 350 open rate among its approximately 1,100 subscribers, a higher rate than the national average.

B. Water and Ecology Committee: Ms. Duffy submitted her report (see attached). She inquired about committee interest in attending the 2015 EAC Network Conference on May 9 in Gettysburg. She will follow up with an email to members with the details.

Ms. Duffy was contacted by the Downtown Glenside Arts Festival organizers about the EAC offering electronics recycling or rain barrels at the event, which coincides with the

Township's Earth Day activities. Ms. Rosenberg suggested recycling cooking oil, but Ms. Duffy did not think cooking oil would be used at the event. Ms. Berman was willing to donate a rain barrel for the event. Ms. Rosenberg suggested the EAC purchase two more from the Tookany/Tacony-Frankford Partnership (TTF) for \$65 each. Students could paint the barrels and then raffle them at the event to support their Environment Club. Ms. Foggie volunteered to oversee the effort. [After the meeting, TTF agreed to donate one rain barrel, and the EAC decided to purchase another for \$65.]

Ms. Duffy reported only seven groups have signed up for Earth Day activities so far, which is fewer than past years.

C. School Liaison Committee: Ms. Rosenberg submitted her report (see attached). She listed goals to promote facility efficiency, environment/sustainability education, and health and wellness at the School District. She hopes to foster "green teams" at the High School that include students, staff, administration and maintenance personnel. The new Wyncote Elementary School will be LEEDs certified and feature signage drafted by the students. Myers Elementary School already has an award-winning green ambassadors program. She concluded that a green policy for the School District is in the works.

D. Energy and Emissions Committee: Mr. McHugh reported that the concept of installing sharrows on Tookany Creek Parkway as a trial has encountered an obstacle due to the roadway's 35 mph speed limit. The bike coalition supports sharrows only on roads with lower speed limits. Mr. McHugh will contact the Police to investigate the possibility of lowering the limit between Central Avenue and New Second Street, which features lots of recreational areas. Ms. Gibson asked how the EAC would assess the success of such a trial, given the overall goal is to install sharrows that traverse the community in east-west and north-south corridors. Mr. Berg suggested

tracking any reduction in cyclists illegally using the pedestrian path. Mr. McHugh suggested a subjective evaluation. Ms. Rosenberg proposed a study by Mr. Mettler.

Mr. McHugh will invite a representative of Premier Energy Auctions to the April EAC meeting to explain more about the program and its benefits.

5. Audobon Society Presentation: Mr. Altadonna, a member of the National Audobon Society Board of Directors, made a presentation about the Township becoming a Bird Town. “A Bird Town municipality makes efforts to restore valuable ecosystem services to create a culture of conservation – where everyone is a potential steward of nature in their backyard and beyond.” The Township must meet at least 5 of 15 initial criteria to apply and then meet all of the following criteria within a year to be fully designated a Bird Town:

- 50 people in Township have taken the healthy yard pledge:
pa.audubon.org/pledge
- Audubon and citizen science literature is made available at public outlets (library, twp bldg., etc)
- Speaker series, minimum of three talks scheduled (for example winter series or seasonal)
- Bird Town newsletter and logo posted on Township website
- A table event promoting Bird Town at ONE township community event
- School project proposal developed
- Stewardship workshop (if funding available)
- Review of and action plan for the Native Plant Ordinance
- Identify one corporate/business partnership for Audubon (where possible)
- Identify three Habitat Discount Card businesses.

After year one, the Bird Town program fee is \$500 per year. Mr. Altadonna stated that activities may cover that fee. He would like to see a member of the EAC appointed as a point person.. Mr. McHugh made a motion that the Water and Ecology Committee review the possibility of becoming a Bird Town and present its findings to the full committee; seconded by Ms. Rosenberg. The motion was unanimously approved.

6. Old Business:

A. Discussion about Educating Citizen Committees: Mr. Ahrens 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.

B. Discussion about an Annual Sustainability Report: Ms. Rosenberg received Ms. Gibson's information and will use Ms. Duffy's monthly reports to draft a Sustainability Report in time for Arts in the Park on June 7, 2015. She requested any additional information be sent to her as soon as possible.

C. Sustainable Cheltenham at Arts in the Park: Ms. DeAngel volunteered to coordinate regular meetings at CreekSide Co-op to work on the Sustainable Cheltenham component of Arts in the Park. She will contact everyone about the meetings by email.

7. New Business:

A. Mr. Hamburg opined the paramount importance of local food production via gardens to sustainability. He recited past efforts that he felt were not well received. Mr. Ahrens requested he draft an article on the subject for the EAC e-Newsletter.

B. Mr. and Mrs. Berman distributed cards advertising "Milkcrate," a free mobile app that allows users to locate and explore green, sustainable businesses in over 20 lifestyle categories.

8. Announcements:

A. DCNR C2P2 Matching Grant: Ms. Gibson requested the EAC endorse the Township's matching grant opportunity in the amount of \$125,000 for the Tookany Creek Trail, Phase III, which would include a pedestrian footbridge, pavement markings and signage, and maintenance vehicle. Mr. Pransky made a motion to support the grant application; seconded by Mr. Berg. The motion was unanimously approved.

B. Ms. DeAngel announced fliers were available for several upcoming TTF events.

C. Ms. Rosenberg asked the visiting students to each send her ten water conservation or clean water tips.

9. Adjournment: Ms. Rosenberg made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms.

Foggie. The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m.



Bryan T. Havir
Township Manager

Submitted by:
Nancy K. Gibson

CHELTENHAM ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL- March 16, 2015

Committee: Water & Ecology

Liaison to the Council: Barbara Duffy

Date of last meeting: March 9, 2015

Date of next meeting: April 13, 2015

Questions for the board/larger group:

- Are we attending 2015 EAC Network Conference May 9th in Gettysburg?
- Glenside Spring Festival organizers “really want to strengthen the tie-in with Earth Day and were thinking about partnering with someone to have an Electronic Recycling Event or a Rain Barrel Workshop during the Festival.” They are asking for EAC suggestions or ideas?

Action Items Completed:

- Attended “Opportunities for Public Participation in the MS4 Permitting Process” on February 23rd – sponsored by PEC & Penn Future.
- TTF Partnership held successful Rain Barrel Workshop.

Action Items In-progress/Pending:

- **TTF Partnership-** Jon Musselman is working on a spreadsheet entitled “Tookany Creek – Completed Projects” - W&E committee is assisting in some of the data input. He also created an “Upstream Municipal Policy Matrix” which outlines Abington, Cheltenham, Jenkintown, Rockledge & Springfield’s policies and codes as they relate to watershed issues. Rain Barrel workshop at Rowland CC – 25 attendees with many residents interested in getting Rain Barrels. Keep tabs on TTF website & twp news for how to order a barrel and where to pick it up. Upcoming TTF educational events listed below & visit their website for more details.
- **Earth Day Projects 2015: Target week in April 25th & 26th** – Twp notice went out to request groups to participate in hosting a project. As of this report, we received no replies to this notice—we need EAC members to outreach to groups personally. We will register our projects with “Keep PA Beautiful- Great American Cleanup” program and then receive free gloves, trash bags & safety vests. Only one more week before we will generate the final draft flier.
- **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. (See above question)
- **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-** informal tour of Curtis occurred Sunday, March 15th – with Steering Committee meeting on March 26th to discuss first draft of plan.
- **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-** Elkins Park Train Station planting plan was sent to SEPTA at the end of February for review and comment. 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.) More info to come.
- **Native Plant Ordinance** – Montco Planning is helping to locate the draft document. (No word yet.)
- **“Herbicide Application Recommendations” Review-** a meeting to review the policy as per the “Monitoring” recommendations will be set for May.
- **Flooding Projects (DEP & Army Corps)** – Army Corp Steering Committee meeting was 2/19 to review the final draft of the Tookany Creek Watershed Flood Reduction Feasibility Study. Draft is still under review before it will be presented to the public sometime in April (or possible in May).

Announcements:

Check out these websites for upcoming events-

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

Workday weekends started in March – check the website for more details.

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

Upcoming TTF events include: 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 – check website for details.

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

Cheltenham Schools Committee – March 9, 2015 - April meeting TBD

Wyncote:

1. The PTO Green Team has been formed and sent a Survey Monkey out to the Wyncote Teachers about how they can use the new Wyncote as a teaching tool. About 14 teachers responded and most are interested in using the building with some knowledge and support from experts.
 - Action: Connect with Architect and Dr. Bavi about how to make this happen.
 - Action: Recommend teachers begin to look at the ECO Schools <http://www.nwf.org/Eco-Schools-USA/Become-an-Eco-School.aspx> website
2. Kristin Krause is working with students on signage for the new Wyncote and possible “green features” brochure
3. A tour is being arranged with Dr. Bavi for teachers to view the school.

Cheltenham Elementary School

1. A teacher Katherine Falso and Dr. Perez the principal and Marilyn Golden the Challenge Consultant are meeting with Lorna Rosenberg on March 24, 2015 to discuss creating a butterfly garden and more features about how to use the school as a teaching tool.

Glenside

1. Staff is working on improving recycling in their lunchroom

Myers

1. Working on creating signage on the green features of the school
2. Anti-Idling signs have been located around the school property
3. Dashboard has been activated that displays energy and temperature data.

Cheltenham High School

1. The Expeditionary Learning Club has been launched by Karen Shaffran. It has an environmental and sustainability theme. Students are taking trips in the area. They have been to see an environmental art exhibit at Haverford College and a water treatment plant and visited a Chipotle Restaurant to learn about their sustainable practices.
2. 5 students from the high school have volunteered to serve on the EAC as student voice. They will be attending our March EAC meeting.
 - a. The students will be asked to report out on their Expeditionary learning trip experience
 - b. We will ask them to contribute 2 water conservation tips each for the Township Facebook page and the School District weekly news email.
 - c. We will value the student input on matters involving the township environment

School District Administration

1. Meeting held with Dr. Kiefer on February 23 with Lorna Rosenberg, Sherry Hazelwood and Chris Edelstein. They asked for a District –Wide Green Team
 2. Dr. Kiefer asked for a short write up about how the Team would function and what would be its mission, this document is being prepared.

