

The regular meeting of the Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) was held tonight. Members present were Kurt Ahrens, Barbara Duffy, Tom McHugh and Lorna Rosenberg. Ex-officio members present were Earl Stamm and Beth Yount. Township liaison present was Nancy K. Gibson, Public Information Officer. Guests present were Cheltenham High School (CHS) Environment Club members Valerie Melecio, Mark Shust and Liza Becker; Michael Weizman, Vice President of Premiere Energy Auctions; Doryan DeAngel; David McVeigh-Schultz and Commissioner Ann Rappoport. See attached attendance sheet.

1. **Call to Order:** Mr. Ahrens called the meeting to order at 7:38 p.m. Before beginning the agenda, he announced that this was the last meeting for recording secretary Kathy McDevitt, who would be retiring on May 1, 2015. The members applauded Ms. McDevitt for all of her work on behalf of the EAC and celebrated her retirement with a retirement cake.
2. **Acceptance of Meeting Minutes:** Ms. Duffy made a motion to accept the minutes of the March 16, 2015 meeting; seconded by Ms. Rosenberg. The motion was unanimously approved.
3. **Presentation on Reverse Energy Auctions:** Michael Weizman, vice president of Premiere Energy Auctions (PEA), described how his consulting company can facilitate a request for proposal for commercial and municipal institutions to purchase energy using an reverse auction-type platform. PEA invites a certain number of suppliers to bid for an institution's energy service beginning with a sealed bid. Bidders can then reduce their bid prices in an effort to win the institution's business. If the institution has more than one building, PEA can help package the buildings in bid groupings in a way most likely to achieve the best pricing. Additionally, PEA can offer strategic risk management, data management software, sustainability and accurate billing. All PEA service fees are covered by the supplier. Discussion ensued regarding risk, green energy, and types and terms of contracts. PEA could even run a test auction based on real

data from the Township's current three-year contract with Constellation Energy to serve as a comparison, at no cost or commitment from the Township. Mr. McHugh made a motion to recommend that the Township seriously consider exploring the reverse auction process; seconded by Lorna Rosenberg and unanimously approved. Mr. McHugh will write up a recommendation to the Board of Commissioners.

4. Committee Reports:

A. Communications and Engagement Committee: Mr. Ahrens did not submit a report but announced the upcoming distribution of the EAC e-Newsletter this week. He asked for topic suggestions from members, which included Earth Day activities; summary of Arcadia University "Going Green" program for schools; meeting schedule for planning Arts in the Park featuring Sustainable Cheltenham; Sustainability Award nominations; Arcadia University Public Health Graduate Student clean water survey; and the Army Corps of Engineers meeting on the final draft of the Tookany Creek Flood Reduction Feasibility Study. Ms. Gibson also mentioned a new Sustainable Princeton event, "Let it Go," a day of community-wide garage sales to promote a form of recycling.

B. Water and Ecology Committee: Ms. Duffy submitted her report (see attached). Ms. Duffy and Ms. Rosenberg will staff a table at the Glenside Arts Festival on April 25, 2015, offering information about recycling, water conservation tips and sewer rent fees changes that took effect in 2015. The EAC will also raffle a painted rain barrel to benefit the Cheltenham High School Environmental Club. Ms. Rosenberg invited the club students to assist at this event.

Ms. Duffy announced that the Tookany/Tacony-Frankford Watershed Partnership (TTF) will host an Environmental Fair and Cleanup event at Parkview Park (Parkview Road and Front Street) on April 25, 2015 from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Ms. DeAngel needs volunteers to pass out

fliers in the neighborhood on Friday, April 24. Additional TTF events include the Watershed Hero presentation on April 30 at CreekSide Co-op, the Annual Watershed Milestones Awards on May 13 and the Backyard Buffers Tour on June 21, 2015.

She added that Earth Day Projects registered with “*Keep Pa Beautiful – Greet American Cleanup*” will receive gloves, trash bags and safety vests this week. Coupons were e-mailed to all Earth Day project group leaders for a free hot dog or pretzel at the Glenside Arts Festival.

Ms. Duffy noted that the Herbicide Application Policy developed by the EAC in 2013 called for a follow up review, which she slated for May.

C. School Liaison Committee: Ms. Rosenberg submitted her report (see attached). Ms. Rosenberg asked if the EAC wants to be represented on a citizen committee working with Gilbert Architects on the design of Cedarbrook School or involved in some other way. She noted that four meetings were being planned. Commissioner Rappoport encouraged the EAC to be unified and intervene early and aggressively. Mr. Stamm inquired about the potential rezoning of Cedarbrook as C2 and whether the School District would sell a piece of the parcel. Discussion ensued. Commissioner Rappoport commented that the Board of Commissioners would review the draft of the new Zoning Code shortly, so any input from the EAC is timely.

D. Energy and Emissions Committee: Mr. McHugh reported that he has not followed up with the Police Department on the concept of installing sharrows on Tookany Creek Parkway but will soon.

5. Old Business:

A. Discussion about Educating Citizen Committees: The discussion was tabled.

B. Discussion about an Annual Sustainability Report: Ms. Rosenberg received Ms. Gibson's information and will use Ms. Duffy's monthly reports to draft an annual sustainability report in time for Arts in the Park on June 7, 2015.

C. Sustainable Cheltenham at Arts in the Park: Ms. DeAngel announced regular meetings have been scheduled for every Monday except the second Monday of each month at CreekSide Co-op to work on the Sustainable Cheltenham component of Arts in the Park.

6. New Business: Mr. Ahrens reported that Arcadia University has submitted a land development plan to rebuild the Bishop McDevitt baseball field, which requested a waiver to forego an environmental impact study. However, neighboring property owners have expressed concerns regarding flooding issues in the area. Ms. Rosenberg made a motion to send an EAC memorandum (see attached) recommending against approving the waiver to the Public Works Committee; seconded by Mr. McHugh. The motion was approved by the majority with one abstention.

7. Announcement: Ms. Gibson announced that Cheltenham Elementary School was selected by Walk Montco, a new county initiative aimed at making communities more walkable, in the safe routes to school category. Meetings for participants will be slated in May or June.

8. Adjournment: Ms. Rosenberg made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. Duffy. The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.



Bryan T. Havir
Township Manager

Submitted by:
Nancy K. Gibson

CHELTENHAM ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL- April 20, 2015

Committee: Water & Ecology

Liaison to the Council: Barbara Duffy

Date of last meeting: April 13, 2015

Date of next meeting: May 11, 2015

Questions for the board/larger group:

- Are we attending 2015 EAC Network Conference May 9th in Gettysburg?
- Glenside Spring Festival –who is helping at the table? Logistics with Rain Barrel raffle
- Bird Town Update?

Action Items Completed:

- TTF Partnership held successful Rain Barrel pick up – 20 barrels were picked up from Rowland CC.

Action Items In-progress/Pending:

- **TTF Partnership-** Julie Slavet will be speaking at the **Academy of Natural Sciences' Seminar Series: Tapping our Watershed** on 4/20, 6pm – 7pm. TTF staff will meet with Township staff to talk about how they can help with MS4 public participation and any upcoming twp. watershed projects. TTF staff also met with Wyngate Residents to discuss ideas for a natural walking path on the Wyngate association's property. TTF is also gearing up for hosting a cleanup at Parkview Park 4/25, for a Watershed Hero presentation on 4/30 at Creekside, and their Annual Watershed Milestones Awards night on May 13th. Keep tabs on TTF website & twp. news for how to order a barrel. For upcoming TTF educational events visit their website listed below.
- **Earth Day Projects 2015- April 25th** – Projects registered with "Keep PA Beautiful- Great American Cleanup" program should be receiving their free gloves, trash bags & safety vests this week. All other will work out supply pickups with township Parks & Rec department.
- **Glenside Spring Festival-** Saturday, April 25th –at the EAC table two messages will be emphasized – "Water Conservation" & the "Recycling does & don'ts". Coupons for a free Hot Dog or Pretzel were emailed to all group leaders of all Earth Day Projects.
- **Water Conservation Campaign-** kicked off at the Run for Jake and will continue with the Glenside Art Festival & "Arts in the Park" events at the EAC/Sustainable Cheltenham tables. Intent is to educate residents on water saving tips to reduce their individual sewer rate, as per the sewer rate changes that started in January 2015.
- **Curtis Arboretum Master Plan-** Steering Committee met on March 26th. Consultant is working on the first draft.
- **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 spot spraying of planted riparian areas to decrease invasive takeover. As well as general good maintenance practices along our waterways.
- **America in Bloom-** No update this month.
- **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).
- **Bird Town** --application still being discussed.

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 includes: 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 TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL- **Schools Report**

Committee: Schools Committee

Liaison to the Council: Lorna Rosenberg

Date of last meeting: March 9, 2015

Date of next meeting: May 11, 2015

Questions for the board/larger group:

- Does the EAC want to be represented on the citizen committee working with Gilbert Architects on the design of Cedarbrook.
- How can the EAC help Cheltenham Elementary access the creek near their school?

Action Items Completed:

Action Items In-progress/Pending:

- **April 14 meeting held with Cheltenham Elementary School a 4th grade teacher Katherine Falso, the Challenge Consultant and Principal Perez to learn about their sustainability efforts, here are the highlights:**
 - Principal, Nicolas Perez, is very supportive and very much interested in any work we can do in sustainability. Marilyn Golden, our challenge consultant is working on these projects with me.
 - So far we have four raised bed gardens to grow produce for the food pantry at Berachah Church.
 - CES is going to plant a Monarch butterfly milkweed and nectar garden in May with the help of 3 high school students. Kevin Reis, Friends of High School Park, and he is coming over to make suggestions. We have, at school, a groundskeeper who is very interested in any of our projects and very knowledgeable – Ken Buckwalter. We are getting native plants from Collins Nursery in Roslyn and Russell Gardens.
 - We are going to restart our paper recycling (we hope this Spring) and add plastic in the Fall.
 - There is a tributary down the hill from our school – would love to ‘adopt’ it. Identifying storm sewers and campaigning to keep them clean, etc.

Wyncote Green Committee of the PTO is continuing to meet about the green features of their new building.

- **Teacher survey completed. 14% of the teachers want more instruction about how they can include the green features of the building in to their student education – with help and guidance from experts.**
- **The PTO has devoted funding to the Green Wyncote efforts**

MEMORANDUM

From: The Cheltenham Township Environmental Advisory Council
To: The Board of Commissioners of Cheltenham Township
Re: CDTA #15-01, Arcadia University – Bishop McDevitt Athletic Field Land Development, Royal Avenue, Glenside, PA

It has come to our attention that the above-captioned matter (the "Athletic Field") has been the subject of a series of Township meetings. It is also our understanding that Arcadia University ("Arcadia") and Bishop McDevitt High School ("McDevitt") have asked for a waiver of the Environmental Impact Study ("EIS") mandated by Section 260-30 of the Cheltenham Township Municipal Code. The Cheltenham Township Environmental Advisory Council **believes it is the due diligence of the Township** to insist upon a full EIS especially when the property of Cheltenham Township residents may be impacted by development.

Our Commissioners have committed to the Sustainable Cheltenham Plan in March 2013, "The government of Cheltenham Township strives to be a leader in sustainability. To do so, the Township seeks to enact action items that will help it achieve a vibrant local economy, a healthy community, and a protected environment" <http://cheltenham.municipalcms.com/pview.aspx?id=10383>. Adhering to the spirit of the Sustainable Cheltenham Plan, the Commissioners have adopted a position that strives for a balance between economy, environment, and community. This can only happen with full knowledge about the impact of any development. Understanding of this project is necessary as it will impact all the goals of Sustainable Cheltenham Plan, most especially:

- Ecological Stewardship
- Water Management
- Sustainable Development

This EIS is particularly necessary, as the two parties requesting the waiver are Township institutions, who should act in the spirit of the Sustainable Cheltenham Plan. Arcadia University has shown extraordinary leadership in the area of sustainability through its Arcadia Cares: Campus Conservation efforts – Going Green <http://www.arcadia.edu/news/default.aspx?id=14210>. A full EIS for this project is consistent with the work of Arcadia's "Tom Macchi, Associate Vice President of Facilities and Capital Planning, [who] finds creative ways to improve the campus, protect the environment and save money."

After reviewing the minutes of the Planning Commission and the Public Works Committee, **we recommend that an EIS not be waived**, but, rather, be considered by the Board of Commissioners before taking any further action.

Section 260-30 provides, in pertinent part, as follows:

"A professional engineer licensed in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania shall study and report on the following:
 ... B. Storm drainage. Studies shall indicate how storm water runoff will be controlled. On developments of one (1) acre or more or those within two hundred fifty (250) feet of a floodplain area, studies shall submit runoff computations for both before and after construction. When seepage pit(s) are proposed to store increased quantity of runoff, sufficient percolation tests shall be performed by a professional soils engineer qualified in this field to determine whether the type of soil is conducive to seepage pit usage."

The record is replete with testimony to the effect that storm water from the field currently floods a number of houses in the surrounding neighborhoods. It is our further understanding that the problem is complicated by the fact that significant amounts of storm water from the large impervious McDevitt parking lot overlooking the field runs down onto the field. The field, which is essentially on a plateau, then directs such collected storm water down onto the neighboring residential properties. There are additional storm water issues. FEMA has already condemned four houses on Bickley

Road because of flooding, and will soon raze them. The Commissioners must be assured in the EIS that the engineering of the project will not exacerbate this flooding problem. Further, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is currently studying proposals for remediation of flooding in the entire area surrounding the McDevitt athletic field. The Commissioners must be assured in the EIS that the project will not interfere with the work of the Corps of Engineers.

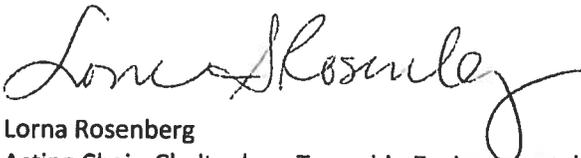
The EIS must also address "Sedimentation and erosion control... On developments of less than five (5) acres, study shall state in the environmental impact statement the measure which will be used to prevent pollution of streams, soil from washing onto highways and sidewalks, and erosion...". The Commissioners must be assured in the EIS that the run-off can be completely contained at all times. Otherwise, soil will be washing down and chemicals from the field will be infiltrating the watershed.

There is also concern about the possible use of artificial turf- and concomitant use of crumb rubber which may contain known carcinogens and heavy metals that should be carefully considered prior to any application, due to its possible health impacts.

There are so many unknown issues about this development, only by reviewing an independent unbiased EIS addressing all of the above will the Commissioners be able to properly evaluate the proposal.

Please let us know immediately if you have questions about this recommendation or the environmental concerns addressed herein.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Cheltenham Environmental Advisory Council:



Lorna Rosenberg
Acting Chair, Cheltenham Township Environmental Advisory Council

