

The regular meeting of the Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) was held tonight. Members present were Kurt Ahrens, Yuri Berg, Barbara Duffy, and Lorna Rosenberg. Ex-officio member present was Janet Starwood. Guests present were Leigh Altadonna and Michael Freeman. Township liaison present was Nancy K. Gibson, Public Information Officer. See attached attendance sheet.

**1. Call to Order:** Mr. Ahrens called the meeting to order at 7:35p.m.

**2. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes:** Ms. Duffy made a motion to accept the minutes of the October 19, 2015 meeting; seconded by Ms. Rosenberg. The motion was unanimously approved.

**3. Committee Reports:**

*A. Communications and Engagement Committee:* Mr. Ahrens reported disseminating the eNewsletter last Friday.

*B. Water and Ecology Committee:* Ms. Duffy submitted a report (see attached). She commented that about 25 volunteers participated in the Curtis Arboretum riparian buffer planting on Saturday. A small group will be back next Saturday to finish installing deer fencing. At Mr. Ahrens' query, she said the Curtis Arboretum Landscape Master Plan has been scheduled for review in March 2016. It incorporates walking paths and education pavilion but nothing about the hall, which will be considered separately.

Regarding Bird Town, Ms. Duffy reported that the application fee has been eliminated, so the committee supports becoming a Bird Town, which promotes similar goals and offers opportunities for joint education and outreach. Ms. Duffy made a motion to submit an application to become a Bird Town, seconded by Mr. Berg. The motion was unanimously approved. Ms. Duffy will complete the application. If the Audubon Society determines that

Cheltenham qualifies, the EAC will recommend the Board of Commissioners adopt a resolution so the Township can officially become a Bird Town.

Regarding the recent Elkins Park Train Station planting, Mr. Freeman reported it was completed on Saturday, November 7. Finally, Ms. Duffy reported that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers draft report on the Tookany Creek Flood Reduction Feasibility Study has been posted online for public comments through December 14, 2015.

*C. School Liaison Committee:* Ms. Rosenberg submitted a report (see attached). The committee's primary focus is getting a green policy/sustainability plan adopted by the School District. The committee will draft recommendations to provide to Dr. Marseille. Ms. Rosenberg added that many green efforts are occurring throughout the District. In fact, Cheltenham High School, Myers and Glenside will all become Eco-Schools, and Cheltenham Elementary may become a Taiwan Partner School.

*D. Energy and Emissions Committee:* No report.

#### **4. Old Business:**

*A. Draft Zoning Ordinance:* Before tonight's EAC meeting, Mr. Ahrens attended the second meeting on the revised draft Zoning Ordinance. He would like it to include language referencing the Sustainability Plan as a consideration for zoning decisions. Ms. Gibson noted that the county presentations from these meetings are posted on the Township website.

*B. Educating Citizen Committees about Sustainability:* Members discussed inviting other citizen committees to an EAC meeting for an education about Sustainable Cheltenham. The meeting would include refreshments. Because neither the EAC chair nor vice chair plan to attend the December EAC meeting, members decided to schedule a "kick-off the New Year with

Sustainable Cheltenham” for the January 25, 2016, meeting, which will be conducted at the Rowland Community Center. Ms. Rosenberg will prepare a draft invitation.

*C. Annual Sustainability Report:* Per Ms. Rosenberg’s query, members felt the report should include sustainable actions that began prior to 2013 and still continue, such as the annual Arbor Day celebration. She will distribute the draft report to members for their input. The finished plan will be presented to the Commissioners via the Public Works Committee.

*D. Green Purchasing:* Ms. Gibson did not have further information about the Township Manager’s thoughts for a simple green purchasing policy. She noted that budgetary considerations must be a major consideration. She participated in a Sustainable Maryland webinar that purported to demonstrate “Green Purchasing Made Easy” but found the recommendations were actually complicated and time-consuming.

## **5. New Business:**

*A.* Mr. Berg made a motion to support an EPA Urban Waters Small Grant application to assess the feasibility of a stormwater utility fee as a tool to finance necessary flood and pollution projects throughout the Township; seconded by Ms. Duffy. The motion was unanimously approved.

*B.* Ms. Gibson announced the Township’s electronics drop-off recycling program will end in 2015 because the company that takes the material has opted to terminate the contract.

*C.* Ms. Starwood asked if native plants could be planted in the Rices Mill Road/Brookdale Avenue locations where properties were demolished under the PEMA/FEMA flood program. [Cheltenham Emergency Management indicates that nothing can be done at any of the properties until the projects are completely closed out, which should be in summer 2016. Any change to

the existing conditions would require an exception from PEMA, which is rare and would entail a lengthy process.]

*D.* Ms. Rosenberg invited members to take a sustainability tour of ShopRite on Thursday, December 3 at 5:30 p.m. She asked interested individuals to RSVP to her.

*E.* Ms. Duffy announced that TTF will contact Ms. Gibson for input on the design of a new storm drain marker featuring an heron.

**6. Adjournment:** Ms. Rosenberg made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. Duffy. The motion was unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.



Bryan T. Havir  
Township Manager

Submitted by: Nancy K. Gibson  
Public Information Officer



## Water and Ecology Report to CHELTENHAM EAC- November 21, 2015

**Committee:** Water & Ecology

**Liaison to the Council:** Barbara Duffy

**Date of last meeting:** November 9, 2015

**Date of next meeting:** January 11, 2015 (No W&E Committee meeting in December. Our January, 2016 W&E Meeting will be at Rowland CC at 6:30pm)

### **Questions for the board/larger group:**

Need vote on moving forward with submitting the Audubon Bird Town Application.

### **Action Items Completed:**

- **Elkins Park Train Station Planting-** Old York Road Community Organization (OYRCO) and Cheltenham neighbors participated in the AIB project to plant two garden areas at the Elkins Park Train Station on Sat & Sun November 7th & 8th. (This project was partially funded by the Zaslow family as well as friends in memory of Anne K. Zaslow and community contributions. Activities were directed by professional landscaper Jim Gorman of Bluestone Exteriors.)
- **TreeVitalize-** November 14th (10am to 2pm) planting at **Curtis Arboretum ponds**. Fencing to be complete 11/21 and volunteer report will be available for next EAC meeting.

### **Action Items In-progress/Pending:**

- **TTF Partnership- 1.** Working with W&E committee on ideas for future riparian area maintenance. 2. TTF met on 10/22 with Municipal staff from the upper TTF watershed to discuss forming a Municipal Task Force committee. The meeting was well attended and the task force is under way with Municipal staff talking to TTF about how the Partnership can help the townships with regard to watershed issues and especially with Pollution Reduction Plans for MS4 reporting. 3. TTF Stream Keepers have agreed to participate in presentations to the W&E committee on a quarterly basis starting in January 2016. 4. TTF, PEC & Penn Future will hold a public meeting at Jenkintown Library on November 16<sup>th</sup> on Stormwater & Public Participation— to more fully support the public in understanding their role in contributing to a Pollution Reduction Plan as outlined in the new MS4 regulations. 5. Susan Harris was hired by TTF to monitor, on a quarterly basis, the buffers that TTF planted in upper reaches. More to come on how the monitoring is going. 6. Rain barrel workshops are being planned for February/March of 2016- target areas include the Glenside, Myer's PTO and La Mott neighborhoods. 7. Sunday, June 12<sup>th</sup> is date set for Backyard Buffer Tour that was cancelled in June- more info to come. 8. Look for news in early spring for an April "Design with Nature" Workshop with John Rogers. 6. For upcoming TTF events & news visit their website listed below.
- **Curtis Arboretum Master Plan-** Steering Committee continues to work on the first draft of the master plan. However, due to a very busy end of year, the Township decided to push back the public presentation of the master plan until the end of March.
- **Invasive Controls with Public Works & Parks Superintendent** – TTF has created the list of riparian areas in township parks that should be targeted for invasive control based on past riparian planting. The committee completed a draft of a letter to the township manager which will request Sustainable Management of our public parks and lands and how this can be accomplished with future Park Maintenance leadership and staff.
- **TreeVitalize-** November 14th Planting at Curtis Arboretum ponds completed with over 25 volunteers. Fencing was not all installed so volunteers are going back on Saturday, November 21<sup>st</sup> to complete. (10 am to 2pm)
- **America in Bloom-** 1. Elkins Park Train Station Garden planting completed. 2. Planting plan for the Glenside Train Station- no new information yet.
- **Native Plant Ordinance** – Montco Planning is helping to locate the draft document. (No word yet.) Preliminary discussions with STAC Chair & Audubon Bird Town to help work on this redrafting if past draft ordinance is not found.
- **"Herbicide Application Recommendations" Review-** No review has been scheduled.
- **Flooding Projects (DEP & Army Corps)** – Army Corp presented final draft of the Tookany Creek Watershed Flood Reduction Feasibility Study to Public Works Committee on Tuesday, November 10<sup>th</sup>. The plan is open for public comments for 30 days (Will close on 12/14/15). Draft Feasibility Report Link is on Cheltenham Township website.
- **Bird Town** – discussed at W&E committee in October- Leigh Altadonna, from Wyncote Audubon, and a Wyncote resident, shared with the Audubon group the W&E committees concerns about the annual fee.

Audubon reported back that "At the moment, there is no fee; however materials, including street signs, will have nominal fees." (Fee amounts have been requested.) W&E Committee agreed to move forward with the application once the full board of EAC votes on it. If our application is accepted by Audubon then a presentation will be put together for the BOC for a possible vote regarding Cheltenham Township resolving to become a Bird Town.

## **Announcements:**

**Check out these websites for upcoming events-**

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

Workday weekends all summer – check the website for more details.

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

Submitted by Barbara Duffy, W&E Committee Chair

## **CHELTENHAM TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL- Schools Report**

**Committee:** Schools Committee

**Liaison to the Council:** Lorna Rosenberg

**Date of last meeting:** November 2, 2015

**Date of next meeting: December 9, 2015**

### **Action Items In-progress/Pending:**

Attendees: Melissa Twersky, Chris Edelstein, Heather Hill, Sherry Hazelwood

- The attendees determined that the most effective next step for the schools committee to advance sustainability in the schools is to continue to push Dr. Marseille on moving ahead with the Green Policy , vision and mission
- Together we drafted the current version with input from most
- Schedule a meeting with Dr. Marseille in December to discuss
- Have the Sustainability Policy included or mesh with the new strategic plan under development

- **Announcements:** November 30, there will be a professional development training on Eco Schools for Glenside, Cheltenham Elementary, Cheltenham High School and Myers who have all signed up for Eco Schools at the Philadelphia School District@ 4:00 pm.

Feedback is welcomed!

The Vision:

**The School District of Cheltenham Township will develop** inspired and empowered students with the knowledge and skills needed to understand the complexity and interconnectedness of our local, national and global challenges for a sustainable future.

The Mission:

**Cheltenham School District will act:** as a transformational hub by leveraging its education systems, policies and practices for to prepare its students for the shift toward a sustainable future.

This can be accomplished through:

- **The creation of a District-wide Green Task Force to integrate its education systems, policies and practices through a sustainability lens for all district activities :**
  - The District Green Task Force should, at a minimum include, a representative teacher and student from each school, a member of the administration (curriculum/facilities/business), a Cheltenham EAC member, Cheltenham Commissioner and a School Board member. They will develop

a District-wide plan to:

- Monitor, support and coordinate with the work of school level green teams in each Cheltenham school;
- Report to the School Board on a monthly basis on the progress of the Team's work;
- Work to publish a cumulative annual report of progress.

- **Each school should have its own Green Team tasked with developing environmental projects in their home school. The school Teams should strive to be as inclusive as possible and should attempt to recruit participation from all stakeholders:**

- Students
- Administrative staff
- Teachers
- Non-teaching staff such as custodians and lunchroom staff
- Nurse
- Parents/guardians
- Community representatives
- Resource professionals from local environmental or conservation organizations.

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