

The regular meeting of the Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) was held tonight. Members present were Kurt Ahrens, Yuri Berg, Barbara Duffy, and Brad Pransky. Ex-officio member present was Natalie Hursky. Guest present was 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 7:45p.m.

2. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes: Ms. Duffy made a motion to accept the minutes of the November 16, 2015 meeting; seconded by Mr. Berg. The motion was unanimously approved.

3. Committee Reports:

A. Communications and Engagement Committee: Mr. Ahrens will distribute the next eNewsletter in early January.

B. Water and Ecology Committee: Ms. Duffy reported the committee did not meet. However, she is awaiting information from a few sources to complete the Bird Town application, which she expects to submit before the January EAC meeting.

C. School Liaison Committee: Ms. Rosenberg submitted a report in absentia (see attached).

D. Energy and Emissions Committee: No report. Ms Gibson noted the Township Manager advised that the Township's current energy supply contract will run until 2017.

4. Old Business:

A. Draft Zoning Ordinance: With the three workshops completed, Mr. Pransky expects the Board of Commissioners to receive the Draft Zoning Ordinance in January. Although he personally would like to see a quick adoption with the understanding that any faults could be addressed later, he suspects the adoption process could be lengthy. In addition, ordinances must be advertised before they can be adopted. Mr. Ahrens was concerned that the draft does not explicitly mention the Sustainability Plan and does not provide structure for negotiating

environmental improvements in return for variances. There was a discussion about the land development process versus zoning. Mr. Pransky suggested the EAC recommend language to reference the Sustainability Plan in a specific location within the legislative intent section of the Draft Ordinance. Mr. Berg made a motion to authorize Mr. Ahrens to draft language that he will circulate to members via email before submitting to the Board of Commissioners prior to its January 20, 2016 meeting; seconded by Mr. Pransky. The motion was unanimously approved.

B. Educating Citizen Committees about Sustainability: Members were happy with the draft invitation (see attached) to other citizen committee members to attend the January EAC meeting. An ad hoc group will meet early in January to plan refreshments for the event.

C. Annual Sustainability Report: Ms. Gibson received a draft of the report featuring changes from several people. She incorporated the tracked changes and cleaned up some issues before submitting the draft back to Ms. Rosenberg for answers to some remaining questions regarding School District efforts.

D. Green Purchasing: Ms. Gibson did not have further information about the Township Manager's thoughts for a simple green purchasing policy. Mr. Berg recommended dropping the issue from the agenda for a while. Mr. Ahrens wants the item to remain on the agenda indicating that information is pending from the Township Manager.

5. New Business:

A. Mr. Ahrens noted the Tookany Creek Flood Damage Reduction Study released by the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) mentioned the possibility of rain gardens in conjunction with the dry detention basins, which he thought should be encouraged. After discussion, Mr. Berg made a motion that the EAC recommend the ACOE use best stormwater management practices in the design of the dry detention basins, such as utilizing rain gardens that feature native plants;

seconded by Ms. Duffy. The motion was unanimously approved. Ms. Gibson noted the comment period for the study ends January 22, 2016.

B. Ms. Gibson announced that the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) requires the Township to adopt a Wissahickon Creek Watershed Stormwater Management Ordinance, based on the DEP model ordinance. Ms. Duffy will review the draft ordinance and alert the EAC if she has any concerns.

6. Adjournment: Mr. Pransky made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Berg. The motion was unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.



Bryan T. Havir
Township Manager

Submitted by: Nancy K. Gibson
Public Information Officer



Meeting Attendance

Environmental Advisory Council



Monday, December 21, 2015 @ 7:30PM
Township Administration Building

(Please Print Clearly)

Name	Email or Other Contact Info	Member (Y/N)
Barbara Duffy	beduffy@comcast.net	Y
Michael Freeman	mfreeman@msn.com	N
Yuri Biega	yuritbega@gmail.com	Y
Kurt Ahrens	Kfahrens@gmail.com	Y
Natalie Hursky	nhursky@comcast.net	N
Brad Prowsky		Y

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

Committee: Schools Committee

Liaison to the Council: Lorna Rosenberg

Date of last meeting: December 7, 2015

Date of next meeting: January 5, 2016

Action Items In-progress/Pending:

Attendees: Melissa Twersky, Lisa Donahue,

1. Set a follow-up meeting with Dr. Marseilles, the new Superintendent to discuss the Green Team
2. Glenside school – Represented by Sally Cardy, attended Nov 31 – Eco-Schools presentation at the School District of Philadelphia
3. Lisa Donahue will draft letter to School Board from the committee asking about the long term maintenance plan for the schools in the district to uphold their efficiency, health and safety.
4. Called CM3 to get the status of repair of the dashboards
5. From tour of Shoprite of Cheltenham, there could be opportunity for composting with Organic Diversions who picks up Shoprite compost.

School updates:

Glenside: Continue working on Peace Garden and outdoor learning space and get ready for Eco-Schools

Cheltenham: Decided not to participate in Taiwan-Eco Schools program, however are working toward achieving an Eco-Schools Green Flag. They are creating an outdoor seating area, the groundskeeper is restoring a nature trail, a first grade teacher is collecting paper for recycling (for a contest) and after that we will continue to make it a building-wide project, we are gradually phasing out Styrofoam lunch trays, and we hope to begin a stream monitoring project with our Watershed representatives. They are maintaining our rain gardens, Monarch butterfly garden, and raised beds for the produce they donate to a food pantry.

Myers: Green Ambassadors working on Litterless Lunch Campaign, students exploring the use and purchase of Bento Boxes

Wyncote: Green Ambassadors are working on the Philly Zoo “unless” project to reduce the deforestation for the growth of palm oil trees. The program includes reducing junk mail and the purchase of products that contain palm oil. Also, there is a social action part of the project <http://www.philadelphiazoo.org/Save-Wildlife/UNLESS-Campaign/UNLESS-Project/Join-the-UNLESS-Project.htm>

Elkins Park School: Kevin Murphy a teacher at EP has around 30 students interested in his environmental club. They are deciding what they will be working on.

Cedarbrook : No know activity at this time

Cheltenham High School –

Waste:

Working in partnership with Student Govt and Senior Class, replacing water fountains with refillable bottle stations throughout the school. Petitioning Chartwell's to remove plastic water bottle machines. Selling refillable bottles as fundraiser

Water:

Working with H2O4Life to raise funds for a school in Ethiopia that needs latrines and potable water. Utilizing Homeroom Reps to raise awareness and collect \$. Selling t-shirts. Goal is \$1000. Sponsoring Guest Speaker for students on 2/23, Water Ambassador Katie Spatz, the youngest person to row solo across the Atlantic Ocean

Energy:

Co-hosting (with TV and Film Club) screening of Alex Leff's documentary In The Path of Resistance with guest speaker

Food:

Organic Farm received a grant from CSD Foundation to create plots in courtyard, growing herbs for FCS program

Wildlife: Working with PA Audubon to promote Cheltenham as a Bird Town USA

Envt Youth Summit:

Planned for May 2016, students from CHS planning a 2 day summit and inviting Evt Clubs from area high schools to collaborate, share their work, interests, and passion for the environment.



Get-to-Know SUSTAINABLE CHELTENHAM Party

Monday, Jan. 25, 2016 @ 7:30PM
Rowland Community Center
(ENTER from door off REAR LOT)

Is your Township committee aware of Cheltenham's Sustainability Plan and how it applies to your work? The Cheltenham Environmental Advisory Council invites **all** fellow Citizen Committees to this special party to learn about the plan's 10 SUSTAINABLE GOALS and how your committee can contribute to our mission of ensuring the long-term health and vitality of our community!



**How can your
efforts contribute
to Sustainable
Cheltenham?**

**Join us for food and
a friendly
exploration of how
we can be
sustainable and
award winning
together!**

**Rowland
Community Center
400 Myrtle Ave
Cheltenham, 19012**

**CHELTENHAM
ENVIRONMENTAL
ADVISORY
COUNCIL**

RSVP: Lorna Rosenberg
By January 22, 2016
LSRosenberg28@gmail.com

215-779-1953