

The regular meeting of the Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) was held tonight. Members present were Kurt Ahrens, Yuri Berg, Barbara Duffy, Michael Freeman, Tom McHugh and Lorna Rosenberg. Guests present were Steven Saffier (Audubon Society), Dottie Baumgarten (Sustainable Choices, LLC), Julie Slavet (Tookany/Tacony-Frankford Watershed Partnership [TTF]), Natalie Hursky, Bridget Chadwick, Jean McWilliams (Cheltenham School Board), David L. Cohen (Cheltenham School Board), Jon Lesher (Montgomery County Planning Commission), Julie Haywood (Cheltenham School Board), Leigh Altadonna (Audubon Society) and Darlene Melton (La Mott Board of Historical and Architectural Review). Township liaison present was Nancy K. Gibson, Public Information Officer. See attached attendance sheet.

Before beginning the official meeting, the EAC hosted a “Get to Know Sustainability Party” designed to spread the message about sustainability and invite other organizations to brainstorm how they can contribute to sustainability goals. Mr. Ahrens welcomed everyone and provided a brief history about the Sustainability Plan. Ms. Rosenberg invited self-introductions and then launched into a brief presentation describing the 10 Sustainability Goals and some of the measures taken by the Township, EAC, School District and community to support them. The measures represent just a few examples of those included in the EAC’s recently completed “2013-2015 Report on the Cheltenham Township Sustainability Plan.” Ms. Duffy finished the presentation and ended with examples of ways to support Sustainable Cheltenham, such as by alerting the EAC to sustainable endeavors in the community, nominating candidates for Sustainability Awards, staffing tables at EAC events, and participating in Earth Day activities. Ms. Slavet spoke about TTF’s past and future projects in the community and area schools.

Mr. Ahrens then invited everyone to share their ideas for enhancing sustainability by posting them under the applicable goals posted on the wall. The interactive exercise resulted in

numerous ideas, including Ms. Baumgarten's suggestion to establish clearer communication pathways so schools and the community know how to report their sustainable endeavors; Mr. McHugh's suggestion to update Township streetlights for better energy efficiency, and Ms. Chadwick's suggestion to cull PennDOT data to track miles driven in personal vehicles in the Township. School Board members generally spoke favorably about pursuing green initiatives. Mr. Ahrens said the EAC will review all of the posted suggestions and thanked participants for attending. The event was then ended.

1. **Call to Order:** Mr. Ahrens called the regular monthly EAC meeting to order at 9:00 p.m.
2. **Acceptance of Meeting Minutes:** Ms. Rosenberg made a motion to accept the minutes of the January 25, 2016 meeting; seconded by Ms. Duffy. The motion was unanimously approved.
3. **Reorganization:** Due to the lateness of the hour, Ms. Rosenberg made a motion to table reorganization until the March meeting; seconded by Mr. Berg. The motion was unanimously approved.

**4. Committee Reports:**

*A. Water and Ecology Committee:* Ms. Duffy submitted a report (see attached).

*B. School Liaison Committee:* Ms. Rosenberg submitted a report (see attached).

5. **Old Business:** No report.
6. **New Business:** Mr. Berg raised a concern about electronic voting by EAC members versus the possibility of electronic meetings. He asked members to consider the issue for discussion at the April meeting since he cannot attend in March.
7. **Adjournment:** Mr. Berg made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Freeman. The motion was unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

February 22, 2016  
Rowland Community Center



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Bryan T. Havir  
Township Manager

Submitted by: Nancy K. Gibson  
Public Information Officer



## **CHELTENHAM TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL-2013**

**Committee:** Schools

**Liaison to the Council:** Lorna Rosenberg

**Date of last meeting:** February 1, 2016

**Date of next meeting:** March 7, 2016

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

**Action Items Completed:**

- **Sent out a petition for a District Green Team to show support for effort with Dr. Marseilles – 100 + names**

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

- **February 24, meeting with Dr. Marseilles to discuss district green team.**
- **Green Policy being discussed by School Board.**

**Announcements: February 25** 4:00pm – 6:30pm – TTF Watershed – Cheltenham Elementary School, 7853 Front Street, Cheltenham Township, PA 19012 Explore Fairmount Water Works' Understanding the Urban Watershed Curriculum.

**Other Notes:**

## **W&E Committee Report: February 22, 2016**

**Liaison to the Council:** Barbara Duffy

**Date of last meeting:** February 8, 2016

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

Attached Bird Town Resolution—discuss impact- (fiscal & responsibility) & how to present to BOC &/or to vote to send to BOC.

### **Action Items Completed:**

Planting at Curtis Arboretum Ponds – November 14<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> (report attached)

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

- ***TTF Partnership-***

- ***1. Stream Keepers Presentation/Report***

- ***2. Update on TTF activities- Rain Barrel Workshop--March 3<sup>rd</sup>*** (5:30 to 7:30) at Glenside Library.

### **Earth Day Projects Organization:**

We have started organizing/coordinating Earth Day Projects—targeted for the weekend of April 30<sup>th</sup>. If you have a group/club in mind please outreach to them.

#### **I will need the following information by the March**

1. Type of Activity:
2. Meeting place:
3. Time:
4. What volunteers need to bring?
5. Contact person's name and phone # (for the day of the event)
6. Sponsoring group/s name:
7. Rain date, "Cancelled if rain" or if it is a "rain or shine event"

- ***Bird Town Application Accepted***– A draft Resolution is attached and was presented in preparation for review at this EAC meeting on 2/22/16. EAC Board Chair requested "What is the fiscal impact?" and there has been a possible change in the annual fee which may be \$250/year.
- ***Curtis Arboretum Master Plan***– The Public Meeting to present the Draft Plan was postponed and no date set yet.
- ***Public Works & Parks Superintendent*** – will be inviting our new Parks Superintendent to an upcoming W&E meeting.
- ***TreeVitalize***– November 14<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> planted riparian area around ponds at Curtis Arboretum. (See attached Volunteer Report)
- ***America in Bloom***– No update on projects but our new Bird Town sub-committee can help to review AIB projects & integrate with the Backyard Bird Habitat program.
- ***Native Plant Ordinance*** – No Word from Montco Planning to locate the draft document. Discussed with STAC Chair forming a new joint committee to start again on this ordinance. Bird Town/Audubon can help with this effort.
- ***"Herbicide Application Recommendations" Review***– No review has been scheduled.
- ***Flooding Projects (DEP & Army Corps)*** –The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) public comments deadline is now February 22<sup>nd</sup> on the final draft of the Tookany Creek Flood Reduction Feasibility Study. TTF submitted comments and EAC Chair.

### **Announcements:**

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

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

Workday weekends will start in Spring – check the website for more details.

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

\*\*\*\*W&E committee meets every 2nd Monday of the month- all is welcome! \*\*\*\*

WHEREAS The Township of Cheltenham recognizes that birds are indicators of environmental health and pledges to provide resources for them

WHEREAS Audubon Pennsylvania has created Bird Town to help municipalities educate their residents, school and businesses about birds

WHEREAS the township staff and Environmental Advisory Committee recognize that Bird Town could assist with our goal attainment for Sustainable Cheltenham and could be a powerful tool to increase "green" living, promote the culture of conservation in our community and provide positive social, economic and ecological outcomes

WHEREAS The Township of Cheltenham recognizes that using native plants, reducing storm water runoff and energy use, and reducing the use of synthetic chemicals can help restore natural systems and ecological integrity

WHEREAS the citizens of The Township of Cheltenham desire a healthy life that includes sustainable green space for the people, plants, and wildlife of future generations,

WHEREAS, as elected representatives of The Township of Cheltenham, we have a significant responsibility to provide leadership which will seek community supported sustainable solutions to strengthen our town, increase property values, and enhance healthy living for future generations: NOW THEREFORE

BE IT RESOLVED, that to engage in efforts to live lighter on the land and provide a healthier environment for the people and birds of our town, The Township of Cheltenham wishes to commit to ecological initiatives and by doing so, we will be recognized as an Audubon Bird Town

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of Cheltenham Township that we do hereby authorize the Environmental Advisory Council to serve as Cheltenham's agent for the Audubon Bird Town and Bird Day processes.