

The reorganization meeting of the Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) was held tonight. Members present were Kurt Ahrens, Barbara Duffy, Michael Freeman and Thomas McHugh. Guests present were Assistant Township Manager Alyson Elliott, Doryan De Angel (Tookany/Tacony-Frankford Watershed Partnership [TTF]), Leigh Altadonna (Audubon Society), Bob Hamburg and Ed Buchman. Township liaison present was Nancy K. Gibson, Public Information Officer. See attached attendance sheet.

1. **Call to Order:** Ms. Gibson called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.
2. **Reorganization:** Ms. Gibson opened the floor for nominations for chairperson. Mr. McHugh nominated Mr. Ahrens; seconded by Ms. Duffy. No other nominations were received from the floor, so Mr. Ahrens was unanimously elected Chair for 2016 and assumed the chair. Mr. Ahrens opened the floor for nominations for vice chair. Ms. Duffy nominated Ms. Rosenberg; seconded by Mr. Freeman. No other nominations were received from the floor, so Ms. Rosenberg was unanimously elected Vice Chair for 2016.
3. **Acceptance of Meeting Minutes:** Mr. Freeman made a motion to accept the minutes of the February 22, 2016 meeting; seconded by Ms. Duffy. The motion was unanimously approved.

4. Committee Reports:

A. Communications and Engagement Committee: Mr. Ahrens submitted a report (see attached). At his request, members suggested ideas for eNewsletter topics. Mr. McHugh agreed to prepare some energy information. Regarding the Downtown Glenside Arts Festival on April 30, Ms. Duffy agreed to staff an EAC table at the event. Mr. Ahrens has a rain barrel that can be raffled off as a fund-raiser for the School District environmental efforts, like last year. He will investigate the possibility of getting the barrel decorated like last year, too. Mr. Ahrens described his conversation with Arcadia University officials to encourage a cohesive sustainability policy

that is supported from the top. Finally, he conveyed Ms. Rosenberg's suggestion that an ad hoc committee be established to review the comments received at last month's meeting to prioritize those reflected in the Sustainability Plan. Mr. Freeman agreed to head that committee and may tap ex-officio members to participate.

B. Water and Ecology Committee: Ms. Duffy submitted a report (see attached). She presented a draft resolution for consideration by the Cheltenham Township Public Works Committee for the Township to be recognized as an Audubon Bird Town. She noted the designation requires no up front costs, but the second year may entail \$250, depending on a final decision from the Audubon Society. Mr. Ahrens suggested a few edits to the resolution. Ms. Duffy made a motion recommending to the Public Works Committee, the adoption of the revised resolution (see attached) to make the Township an Audubon Bird Town; seconded by Mr. McHugh. The motion was unanimously approved.

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

D. Energy and Emissions Committee: Assistant Township Manager Alyson Elliott presented an overview of the Township's Guaranteed Savings Agreement with Johnson Controls, Inc. (JCI) to perform an Investment Grade Audit for the conversion of the Township's lighting infrastructure to light-emitting diode (LED) technology.

Between April and July, JCI contractors will inventory the Township's streetlights, traffic and pedestrian signals, and exterior building and parking lot lights to collect the information needed to engineer an LED retrofit to these facilities that will reduce the amount of energy used, while improving the light coverage in the Township. The goal of the project is to cover the cost of upgrading the lighting infrastructure from the savings that result from reduced energy usage and lower maintenance costs. LED bulbs last approximately five times longer than high pressure

sodium bulbs and would use about 60% less energy. Based on a preliminary audit, Cheltenham should realize enough savings to finance the project without adding any capital of its own.

If the Investment Grade Audit proves that the Township will save enough to finance this project, the Board of Commissioners will consider taking the next step of implementing the project in July or August.

Almost 40 municipalities in Bucks, Chester, Delaware and Montgomery counties are participating in the program offered by the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission, which creates bulk purchasing power to garner extremely competitive rates on labor and materials. The communities will also take advantage of a low-interest bond through the Pennsylvania Sustainable Energy Finance Program to finance their projects. The program would enable the Township to convert its entire lighting infrastructure to LEDs in 12 to 18 months, much faster than Township staff could achieve.

Finally, the savings to the Township are guaranteed. If the Township does not realize the savings promised by the Guarantee Savings Agreement, JCI will pay the difference to the Township. Mr. McHugh questioned if PECO agreed to reduce its tap fee per streetlight after the conversion, which he said PECO rejected in past. Ms. Elliott said PECO was on board with the project [but the tap fee would not be eliminated]. Detailed data about the project is available on the Township's website www.CheltenhamTownship.org > Departments & Services > Projects, Plans and Studies > LED Conversion Project for interested members.

5. Old Business: Due the lateness of the hour and upcoming presentation, discussion about green purchasing guidance was tabled.

6. New Business: Regarding Sustainable Cheltenham at Arts in the Park (AIP), Mr. Ahrens arranged for an electric car to be displayed. Ms. De Angel reported that the AIP committee was

pleased but wanted a clear message to explain the car's presence. Members suggested focusing on an energy theme this year, including seeking sponsorship from Solar City. Ms. De Angel added that the AIP committee is looking for donations of seedlings to sell at the event. Mr. Ahrens will include that request in the eNewsletter along with another invitation for Sustainability Award nominations. Members will meet outside of the meeting to do further planning for the event.

7. Announcements: Ms. Elliott requested letters of support from the EAC for the 2016 Community Development Block Grant Application, which includes energy-efficiency upgrades at the La Mott Community Center, and the 2016 Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Grant Application for Tookany Creek Trail Phase III, located between Harrison Avenue and New Second Street through Gimbel Field. The trail project includes a bridge over Tookany Creek that must be built outside of the flood plain. Mr. Freeman made a motion to support both applications; seconded by Mr. McHugh. The motion was unanimously approved.

8. Presentation on the Regenerative Handling of Food and Other Organic Residues: Mr. Hamburg made a presentation about anaerobic digestion, in which anaerobic bacteria break down or "digest" organic material in the absence of oxygen and produce methane and other biogases as a waste product. He showed dozens of designs for "digesters" that have been used for decades around the world, including a present-day university. The solid material drawn from an anaerobic digester, called effluent, is rich in nutrients and an excellent soil conditioner. Ideally, Mr. Hamburg would like a digester on every block for residents to discard their organic waste and then use the effluent in personal food gardens but recognized the obstacles. Mr. Ahrens invited Mr. Hamburg to provide information for the eNewsletter to help raise awareness about anaerobic digestion.

9. Adjournment: Mr. Freeman made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. McHugh. The motion was unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.



Bryan T. Havir
Township Manager

Submitted by: Nancy K. Gibson
Public Information Officer

Final Draft

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 the Bird Town program to help municipalities educate their residents, schools and businesses about birds;

WHEREAS the township staff and Environmental Advisory Council recognize that Bird Town could assist with our township goals 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 spaces for people, plants, and wildlife now and for future generations;

WHEREAS, as elected representatives of The Township of Cheltenham, we have a responsibility to provide leadership and 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 will 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 programs.

CHELTENHAM TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL- March. 2016

Committee: Communication Committee

Liaison to the Council: Kurt Ahrens

Date of last meeting: unknown

Date of next meeting: TBD

Questions for the Council:

- Content for EAC Subcommittee Sections in Newsletter?
- Other topics for Newsletter?
- How will we participate in the Glenside Arts fair
- Who will coordinate our Sustainability Festival planning?

Action Items Completed:

- Participated in first Commissioners' workshop reviewing public comments (including EAC comments) on Zoning Ordinance revision.
- Feb. newsletter sent.
- Invited to Cheltenham Democratic Committee meeting; provided overview of EAC activity.
- Met with Matt Golden, Arcadia U. VP of University Relations.
 - We discussed the need for a coherent Sustainability policy; he will pursue that discussion with Eric Nelson (CFO).
 - We also discussed the desirability of having a more coherent and sustainable program in the Community Service office, which would strive to spread the word about opportunities to engage in sustainability-related projects and also report on accomplishments. He will direct Cindy Rubino (coordinator of that group) and Caitlin Burns (media writer for that group) to connect with me and provide updates on their activities.
- Persuaded Tesla to provide a vehicle for display at Sustainability Festival
- Summary of sticky-note comments from last month's Meet and Greet EAC meeting—participants were asked to suggest actions that they or other Township groups could undertake to promote sustainability, in each of the areas defined in the Sustainability Plan:

Community Engagement—>Engage and educate all Cheltenham residents and stakeholders to unite behind a shared set of goals to build a sustainable future:

- Glenside Elementary has a Green Team. Make an easier way of getting info to you. (Dottie)
- Green Policy adoption by CSD (Julie Haywood, CSD)
- EAC and Historical Commission and Parks&Recreation Dept. Flea Market/Freecycle?
-

Monitoring—>Track and report the progress of measurable implementation strategies; re-evaluate and update goals and targets as needed:

- Share info with neighbors (Darlene, Lamott BHAR?)
- Sustainability chats online between/among teachers, TTF, etc.
- Sustainable Fact of the Day/Week/Month (Julie Haywood, CSD)
- Figure out how to advertise the Township—positive things that are going on. (Dottie)
- Develop and host sustainability dashboard displaying key metrics in real time.
- Block captains to help people recycle
- Community engagement tax credit to incentivize civic engagement
- Use Audubon Bird Town bird walks in Cheltenham Parks to recruit stewardship and management partners for parks.
- Audubon “backyard” bird habitat (Leigh, Audubon)
- Glenside Elementary can be trained in water monitoring (Dottie)
- Monitor birds using ebird (or inaturalist) in Tookany Creek Park

Local Economy—>Encourage and support local and regional agriculture, artisans, businesses, institutions, and industry by strengthening connections to and markets for local goods and services:

- Buy local—Advertise and promote local business. Similar to [Grand Art Walk]? (Julie Haywood, CSD)
- Shop at Elcy's Cafe, Creekside and eat at Park Plates, and get/invite other to do the same.
- Encourage native plant sales/products
- Award to Roberts Block. (Dottie)

Healthy Living For All—>Promote healthy living in Cheltenham through equitable, affordable, and safe access to information, education, recreation, natural areas, car-free transportation, fresh local foods, health care services, clean air, and clean water:

- Sustainable hands on displays at community centers, libraries, schools—by students. (Julie Haywood, CSD)
- Link each school with closest open space (park).
- Connect w/ the Arcadia School of Public Health for projects and studies.

Water Management—>Minimize stormwater hazards, reduce wastewater flows, increase natural absorption of rainwater, and maximize the utility of rainwater as a resource:

- Have more Stormwater BMP (best management practices?) Demonstration sites on Twp Property.
- Build Rain Gardens and encourage neighbors (set example)
- Support the USACE stormwater and flooding reduction plan to preserve our Tookany Creek Ecology and to protect people, home values, and property.
- Greywater recycling for new construction
- Township Stormwater Committee: Township, School District, TTF, EAC (Lorna)
- Stewardship of Parry Sanctuary to improve habitat
- Make sure Commissioners enforce stormwater ordinances, regs.

- Ensure zoning code protects creeks
- Encourage Township to invest in water quality
- Cheltenham has joined our new Municipal Task Force (TTF?)

Ecological Stewardship—>Protect and improve the overall health and ecological diversity of the Township’s habitats, waterways, and soils, both on public and private lands:

- Engage STAC in starting a “No Volcano Mulching” campaign.
- Train backyard stewards to help with landscape plans (Audubon)
- Restoring the ecology of yards using native plants in the landscape (Audubon)
- Improve bird habitat
- Get a Native Plant Ordinance passed
- Examine/study habitat corridors and islands

Waste Reduction—>Minimize solid and hazardous waste disposal, and maximize the reuse of waste products as a resource:

- EAC+EDTF+Classic Towns: Smart Methods for Achieving Advanced Retrofit for Small Business—energy efficiency
- Use the County Recycling Coordinator as a resource for recycling education
- Township and School District: Green Purchasing
- Buy bulk foods and reuse bags and containers

Sustainable Development—>Promote building, land use, site development, and landscaping that respects the natural environment and maximizes clean and efficient use of resources, and ensure that all permitting, codes, and regulations support the community’s sustainability goals:

- Incorporate renewable energy regulations in the new zoning ordinance + explore creating a regulatory incentive program for green building
- Native Plant Ordinance (commercial) (Audubon)
- Building codes that: 1) encourage use of adaptable design/adaptable space; 2) ability to age in place; 3) ADUs
- Shred and compost leaves on property

Mobility—>Minimize vehicular travel and emissions, increase use of alternative modes of transportation, and make it desirable, safe, and convenient to walk and bike throughout the Township and connect to the region:

- Assessment of Progress (mobility): Reducing vehicle miles traveled (VMT)—Ask Montco Planning or DVRPC to provide VMT data from 2005 to present on twp map [map drawn with Willow Grove Ave, Easton Rd, Township Line, York Rd, and Cheltenham Ave] note: PennDOT collects average daily traffic on many roads (Bridget Chadwick)
- Push harder for walkability especially at key intersections. Pedestrians and bikers have rights.
- Walk w/in a mile/day in Cheltenham (introduced by Art Haywood, while Commissioner) (Julie Haywood, CSD)
- Walking Clubs: Neighborhoods, schools

- Connect with Montco Planners to discuss Cheltenham projects on the county TIP and regional TIP. For each project, provide a table with: existing conditions and proposed improvements for each category (auto, bus/rail transit, bike, walk)
- Transportation GHG/CO2 reduction goals using Copenhagen/Paris Climate targets and/or PA Climate Action Plan (e.g., 17% reduction below 2005 baseline by 2025). Using CO2/VMT relationship, we can estimate CO2 reduction.

Energy—>Maximize energy efficiency, minimize energy demand and emissions, and shift all community electricity consumption to renewably sourced energy generated within the Township and the region:

- Using landscape techniques to save energy (residential) (Audubon)
- Consider a Solarize program for the Township or partner w/ neighbor Townships.
- Solar Power interest group
- Solar Panels: Township, School District. Presentation covering operation, cost, efficiency, benefits. (Julie Haywood, CSD)
- Work towards getting grants from PECO to help Cheltenham Twp to switch all street lights from mercury vapor to LED. This will reduce kWh and maintenance costs.

Action Items In-progress/Pending:

- March Newsletter

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Action Items In-progress/Pending:

- March Newsletter

W&E Committee Report: March 21, 2016

Liaison to the Council: Barbara Duffy

Date of last meeting: March 14, 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:

Action Items In-progress/Pending:

- **TTF Partnership-** Updates- 1. TTF Rain Barrel Workshop on March 3rd at Glenside Library was well received. 2. Planning for 5/25 TTF Milestone Event. 3. Steam Keepers meeting on 3/22. 4. Planning for Backyard Buffer Tour on 6/12.
- **Earth Day Projects-** Attached is the 2016 project list. Request for township to approve projects will be sent and to post on website.
- **Bird Town-** Application was accepted by Audubon & next step is to send resolution to BOC.
- **Curtis Arboretum Master Plan-** The Public Meeting to present the Draft Plan is set for the Public Affairs Meeting on April 6th at 7:45pm
- **New Parks Superintendent** – will be invited our April 11th W&E committee meeting.
- **TreeVitalize-** No project for 2016
- **America in Bloom-** no activity at this time but will be organizing a meeting soon. Our new Bird Town sub-committee can help to review AIB projects & integrate with the Backyard Bird Habitat program.
- **Native Plant Ordinance** – Will work to get a committee together after Earth Day projects & Arts in the Park. 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)** –Public feedback is being reviewed- no word on next meeting.
- Planning for EAC participation at **"Glenside Arts Festival" on April 30th & "Arts in the Park" on June 5th**

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! ****

Original Draft

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Earth Day Projects 2016

Saturday, April 30th (unless otherwise noted)

Neighborhood, club and community groups are celebrating our Earth by hosting projects at various locations throughout the Township.

Everyone is invited to join a project; no registration is needed.

General information contact: Barb Duffy at beduffy@comcast.net - On day of event, contact person listed.

Downtown Glenside

Activity: 4th Annual Downtown Glenside Arts Festival will celebrate Earth Day

Meet: Easton Road (between Glenside Ave. & Waverly Rd.)

Time: Noon to 6pm

Bring: Friends & Family

Contact: Maureen Haff 215-576-5583

Sponsor: Downtown Business Merchants Association

participate in an Earth Day cleanup & get a coupon for a hot dog & soda at the festival

Grove Park (Saturday, April 23rd)

Activity: Creek and garden cleanup, kids' activities, popcorn

Meet: Lynwood Ave and Cherry Lane in Glenside

Time: 2:00 to 4:00

Bring: gloves, boots and garden tools

Contact: Nancy Polisano 610-304-9533 or Dottie Baumgarten 215-870-5650

Sponsoring Group: Friends of Grove Park

Rain date: Sunday, April 24th (2 to 4)

Keswick Underpass

Activity: cleanup and planting

Meet: Keswick Avenue near Glenside Ave.

Time: 9 am to noon

Bring: Garden gloves and protective clothing

Contact: June Parkinson 215-886-4746

Sponsor: Abington and Cheltenham neighbors

Rock Lane Park

Activity: Trash & invasive cleanup & deer fence mending

Meeting Place: Rock Lane and Widener Road, Elkins Park

Time: 10am to 1pm

Bring: Garden gloves, protective clothing & loppers

Contact: Alex Cooper: cooper@ttfwatershed.org 215-744-1853

Sponsoring Group: TTF Watershed partnership

Glenside Elementary School

Activity: Tookany Creek buffer cleanup

Meet: (rear of school), 400 Harrison Avenue, Glenside

Time: 10am to 1pm

Bring: Energy and Enthusiasm

Contact: Alex Cooper: cooper@ttfwatershed.org 215-744-1853

Sponsor: TTF Watershed partnership

Cedarbrook MS (Rock Creek Buffer zone on old campus)

*Activity: Rock Creek Buffer cleanup
Meet: 300 Longfellow Road, Wyncote
Time: 10am to 1pm
Bring: Energy and Enthusiasm
Contact: Alex Cooper: cooper@ttfwatershed.org 215-744-1853
Sponsor: TTF Watershed partnership*

Melrose Park Train Station

*Activity: flowerbed cleanup
Meet: Melrose Park Train Station
Time: 10am to noon
Bring: gardening tools, gloves, kneeling pads etc.
Contact: Caryl Levin caryl.levin@verizon.net.
Sponsoring Group: Melrose Park Neighborhood Association*

Cheltenham Avenue (Sunday, May 1st)

*Activity: cleanup
Meet: Cheltenham & Coventry Avenues
Time: 1pm to 3pm
Bring: gloves
Contact: Caryl Levin caryl.levin@verizon.net.
Sponsoring Group: Melrose Park Neighborhood Association*

High School Park (Sat & Sun-April 2-3rd & 16-17th & 30th & May 1st)

*Activity: Cleanup, plantings and trail work in the park
Meet: garden shed near Montgomery Avenue
Time: 10:00 a.m. to Noon
Bring: protective clothing- closed shoes, long pants & long-sleeved shirt
Contact: Kevin Reis, 215-782-8082 or fhsprestationmanager@gmail.com
Sponsoring Group: Friends of High School Park*

Ralph Morgan Park

*Activity: Trash cleanup
Meeting Place: Jenkintown Train Station parking lot (closest to South Avenue playground)
Time: 9:00am to noon
Bring: gloves
Contact: Rory Ahrens 267-994-5679
Sponsoring Group: Scout Troop 116*

Tookany Creek behind Elkins Park School (Friday April 22nd)

*Activity: Invasive removals & cleanup
Meet: Behind Elkins Park School
Time: 1:00pm to 3:00pm
Bring: gloves, protective clothing-closed shoes, long pants
Contact: Heather Hill
Sponsoring Group: Elkins Park PTO*

Sustainable Cheltenham will be at "Arts in the Park"
Sunday, June 5th 2016
at High School Park
10am to 5pm

CHELTENHAM TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL-
2016

Committee: Schools Committee

Liaison to the Council: Lorna Rosenberg

Date of last meeting: March 7, 2016

Date of next meeting: **April 4, 2016**

Questions for the board/larger group:

Action Items Completed:

- Successful meeting with Dr. Marseille – February 24 – See letter below
- Letter sent to School Board about funding for Cedarbrook Educational Commissioning
- Feb 25, TTF watershed training at Cheltenham Elementary School
- Sustainability added as a criteria for Strategic Planning Goals of the School District.
- Continued work to get dashboards operational at Cheltenham and Glenside elementary
- Glenside elementary work on Peace Garden or Rain garden courtyard

Action Items In-progress/Pending:

- Preparing schools to participate in Sustainable Cheltenham Festival
- Cheltenham Elementary wants to start a birding club
- Myers working on no-waste lunch.
- Ancille Assupta hosting an on-campus clean up for Earth Day
- Master facilities plan completed by consultant and will be available for Committee review in April.

Announcements:

CHS environmental club holding a Environmental Youth Leadership high school retreat in Downingtown with other area high schools. May 22&23

******Dr. Marseille,

Thank you for meeting with the Cheltenham Township Environmental Council Schools Committee on February 24. We greatly appreciate your interest, enthusiasm and support for a district –wide Green Council. Your suggestion of doubling the budget for sustainability projects from \$7,000 to \$14,000 next year will be very supportive for Cheltenham schools to kick-start projects that support STEM, wellness and building efficiency.

You also mentioned having Karen Shaffran create a job description for teachers to participate in the Council with Extra Duty/Extra Pay. This will be a great way for teachers to be compensated for their participation. Also, including sustainability subjects in the choice of professional development subject for teachers, such as energy management or watershed education. The Cheltenham Environmental Council has many resources to support this effort, feel free to tap our expertise.

Finally, we agreed that "sustainability" must be included in the District's new Strategic Plan. We know that Karen Shaffran has been instrumental in this effort. In the March 3 Strategic Planning work session, sustainability and green actions were among the criteria applied to developing the goals and actions. This is really great progress!

We will schedule a follow-up meeting in May, to see how we the Environmental Council Schools Committee can support sustainability in our schools.

Again, many thanks,

Lorna Rosenberg"