

The regular meeting of the Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) was held tonight. Members present were Kurt Ahrens, Yuri Berg, Barbara Duffy and Thomas McHugh. Guests present were Susan Danneberg and Doryan De Angel. 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 7:35 p.m. and initiated self-introductions.

2. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes: Mr. Berg questioned whether votes that are not unanimous must include each member's vote by name. Mr. Ahrens indicated that was required for roll call votes. Mr. Berg made a motion to accept the minutes of the April 18, 2016 meeting; seconded by Ms. Duffy. The motion was unanimously approved.

3. Committee Reports:

A. Communications and Engagement Committee: Mr. Ahrens plans to distribute an e-newsletter before Arts in the Park (AIP). He will investigate Mail Chimp, a free alternative to Constant Contact that another citizen committee uses for its e-newsletter distribution. Ms. Gibson reported that she sent emails to the addresses that bounce back from the EAC e-newsletter distribution list but received no responses. Mr. McHugh may know someone who found a solution to this problem and will report back. Mr. Ahrens mentioned that the Shade Tree Advisory Commission members that he met at the Arbor Day Celebration were unaware of the EAC outreach held in February.

B. Water and Ecology Committee: Ms. Duffy submitted a report (see attached.) Ms. Duffy requested ideas for locations for Bird Town signs, which are similar to the Tree City USA signs. Ms. Gibson will investigate if Township sign regulations limit location options. Ms. Gibson also informed members that any Bird Town fees will be covered by the EAC budget. Ms.

Duffy asked members if a beautifully painted rain barrel should be raffled at AIP and the proceeds donated to the Friends of High School Park (FHSP). Other options include donating the proceeds to the Cheltenham High School Environmental Club, retaining the funds for the EAC or raffling the barrel for free in exchange for email addresses. Mr. Berg made a motion to raffle the barrel for \$5 for 1 chance or \$20 for 5 chances and donating the proceeds to the FHSP. Ms. Duffy raised the possibility of organizing a bike ride for the Tookany/Tacony-Frankford Watershed Partnership (TTF) Backyard Buffer Tour scheduled on June 12, but members choose not to pursue the idea due to liability concerns. Ms. Duffy suggested offering yard work tools like rakes and loppers that have accumulated in her garage from grants over the years for a “tool library” operated by the restoration manager at High School Park. Mr. Ahrens liked the idea of making the tools available for Eagle Scout projects and similar efforts around the community but wanted more information on how the “library” would operate. The topic will be put on next month’s agenda. Ms. Duffy commented on the success of the Earth Day projects and the Downtown Glenside Arts Festivals. She also praised a clean water lecture she attended at the Academy of Natural Sciences on May 9 featuring actor Mark Ruffalo, a clean water advocate who tested Tookany Creek water in the Township earlier the same day to raise awareness about the issue. Finally, Ms. Duffy reminded members that the TTF Milestone event will be held on May 25. Mr. Berg commented on the Eastern Tent Caterpillars currently prevalent in some neighborhoods. Ms. Gibson said that all reports indicate the caterpillars rarely do permanent damage to trees and are nearly at the end of their normal cycle.

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

D. Energy and Emissions Committee: Mr. McHugh commented that this past April was the 12th consecutive month that broke the average temperature for that month in 137 years of

recorded data. In addition, Arctic sea ice is continuing to decrease in size. Both are indications of climate changes that may eventually lead to floods or droughts around the world, which is why reducing manmade CO₂ is so vital. Mr. McHugh will ask Bill Mettler for information about the Carbon Fee and Dividend Act to hand out at AIP.

4. Old Business:

A. Selection of 2016 Sustainable Award Winners: Mr. Ahrens presented the following candidates for this year's awards:

- Karen Shaffron
- Brown's ShopRite of Cheltenham
- Bill Mettler
- Arcadia University's Annual Shredding/Repurposing Event on Martin Luther King Day
- Wyncote Commons and Roberts Block
- Cheltenham Township Streamkeepers: Hannah Reamer, Kathy Hodgkiss, Nathan Johnson, Karen Serfass, Chris Hunter, Gina Craigo, Callie Raymond, Kurt Ahrens, Robin Irizarry and John, Johnny, Glynis and Maris Raisch.

After brief discussion about the candidates' qualifications, Mr. McHugh made a motion to present the awards to the candidates proposed, seconded by Ms. Duffy. The motion was unanimously approved. Ms. De Angel volunteered to print posters describing the winners' contributions if Mr. Ahrens gets her the information by May 25.

B. Discussion of Sustainable Cheltenham at AIP: Mr. Ahrens arranged for volunteers to run the bike corral. He asked Ms. De Angel to confirm that the FHSP will not object if the volunteers post fliers about organizing a mountain bike team and family bike rides by the corral. Ms. De Angel will also confirm the timeslot(s) when Mr. Ahrens and Township Commissioners

may present the Sustainability Awards during AIP. Ms. Duffy confirmed that the EAC will have three tables: one for general information, one for Backyard Bird Habitats and one for student displays. TTF will have an adjacent table. Bird Town will be the predominant theme, but Mr. McHugh will prepare information about energy and emissions if the electric car tentatively scheduled to be displayed is confirmed. Ms. De Angel will relay these themes to the children's activity organizers.

C. Discussion of Electronic Voting/Electronic Meetings: Tabled.

D. Review of Outreach to Other Township Groups: Tabled.

E. Environmental Education Grant: Ms Gibson announced that the Township received a \$3,000 grant for storm drain marker installation and education, which will be headed by the TTF.

F. Green Purchasing: The Township has identified three green purchasing goals for 2016: 1) The Township has already begun purchasing 29 office supply products, including copy paper, binders, pens and planners, that are at least 30% recycled and is exploring recycled options for other office products; 2) the Township now uses in-house staff to clean municipal buildings and has committed to purchasing "green" cleaning products; and 3) hybrid vehicles will be purchased to replace all administration vehicles as they are retired from the fleet.

Members appreciated the Township's efforts.

5. New Business:

A. Ms. Gibson circulated an invitation (see attached) to the 2016 Bucks-Mont EAC Summit on June 16, 2016.

B. Ms. Danneberg of the Bicycle Coalition of Greater Philadelphia described The Circuit Trails, a plan to establish a 750 mile network of pedestrian and biking trails in a nine-county region in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Explaining the benefits of trails, including improved

property values, is important to getting the needed buy-in by community residents and elected officials. She noted that the proposed Cresheim Trail could connect the Township to the Wissahickon Trail. Arcadia University and Springfield High School have already expressed interest in connecting to Cresheim Trail. Although some sections present difficulties, Ms. Danneberg said the strategy is to build easy sections first to create enthusiasm for the harder parts. Some funding sources are lined up, but the first step is securing a 20-year lease for the PECO right to way. Mr. Ahrens asked her keep the EAC apprised about progress on the trails and anyway the EAC can assist.

6. Adjournment: Ms. Duffy 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

CHELTENHAM ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL- May 16, 2016

Committee: Water & Ecology

Liaison to the Council: Barbara Duffy

Date of last meeting: May 12, 2015

Date of next meeting: Tuesday, June 14, 2015

Questions for the board/larger group:

- Location for Bird Town Sign- do we want more than one?
- Volunteers for Arts in the Park & vote to raffle off painted rain barrel at AIP
- Anyone interested in leading a bike tour to the Backyard buffers on Sunday, June 12th?
- EAC tools – can we donate them to High School Park? Kevin, Restoration Manager at FOHSP would like to start a tool library.

Action Items Completed:

- ✓ 12 Earth Day Events happened in April with over 800 volunteers involved.
- ✓ Table at Glenside Arts Festival was very successful- many postcards for the Backyard Bird Habitat Program were given out.
- ✓ Attended the Academy of Natural Science with the premier of the documentary "A Watershed Event" and a conversation with actor & water activist, Mark Ruffalo. He discussed the Delaware River Watershed Initiative & its many partners including TTF.

Action Items In-progress/Pending:

- **TTF Partnership-** Updates- 1. TTF was excited to host actor & water activist, Mark Ruffalo at Tookany Creek Parkway for water monitoring as part of the day prior to the event at the Academy of Natural Science featuring the premier of the documentary "A Watershed Event" and discussion with Mark about the Delaware River Watershed Initiative. 2. Planning for 5/25 TTF Milestone Event – BUY YOUR ticket & support TTF Partnership. 3. Steam Keepers continue monitoring and collecting data. 3. Backyard Buffer Tour on for Sunday 6/12 (See below for details.) For upcoming TTF educational events visit their website listed below.
- **Earth Day Projects April 2016** – There were 12 projects and most were registered with "Keep PA Beautiful- Great American Cleanup" program. This program provided free gloves, trash bags & safety vests to all registered projects. Elkins Park Middle School had the most volunteers including all of their students (600+). Volunteer report is attached.
- **Bird Town-** The committee is brainstorming ideas for the location of the Bird Town sign & is discussing if we want more than one sign and how much that would cost for more and how they would be funded?
- **Arts in the Park, Sunday, June 5th** –EAC tables will include: Backyard Bird Habitat display, Award winners display with general EAC handouts & School Student displays, TTF table & TTF will have a kids activities along with the Cheltenham Center for the Arts. Still looking for sponsors & an organizer for the bike corral. We also will need students to help raffle off painted rain barrel – if EAC vote determines that we are raffling it at AIP.
- **Curtis Arboretum Master Plan-** comment period ended May 10th.
- **New Parks Superintendent** – will be invited to our June W&E committee meeting.
- **TreeVitalize-** No project for 2016
- **America in Bloom-** no activity at this time. Our new Bird Town sub-committee can help to review AIB projects & possibly integrate 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 also 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.

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://tffwatershed.org/events/>

Upcoming TTF events includes:

Creekside Buffer & Bird Garden Tour

When Sunday, June 12, 2016 12pm – 3pm

Where Start at Creekside Co-op, 7909 High School Rd, Elkins Park

Self-guided tour featuring experts at each of the five sites. Learn how you can attract birds and protect our creeks!

Suggested Donation = \$15. Register by June 8 here: <http://creeksidebirdgarden.eventbrite.com>

Questions? Contact Alex Cooper • cooper@tffwatershed.org • 215.744.1853

*****W&E committee meets at the Creekside Coop every 2nd Monday of the month- all is welcome! June's meeting will be the second Tuesday, June 14th *****

CHELTENHAM TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL-
May 2016

Committee: Schools Committee

Liaison to the Council: Lorna Rosenberg

Date of last meeting: May 2016

Date of next meeting: May 24, 2016 with Dr. Marseille

Questions/issues for the board/larger group:

Action Items Completed:

- A grievance from the custodial union was filed against the Glenside School community for work from outside contractors in the school courtyard peace garden. Lorna spoke with Bob Lepack of the School District custodial union. He said that if the schools do any educational program where at least one child is involved, there are no problems with the Union. Schools should inform Union (school custodian) of any activities that involve site changes before they happen. Input to Cheltenham School District Draft Strategic Planning presentation from May 2 for using the schools as a teaching tool and teacher professional development learning about building operations must be an explicit part of the final plan.
- Input to Cheltenham School District Draft Strategic Planning presentation from May 2 for using the schools as a teaching tool and teacher professional development learning about building operations must be an explicit part of the final plan.
- Meeting preparation for May 24 with Dr. Marseille – February Meeting, Dr. Marseille agreed to extra duty-extra pay for teachers on the Council. More professional development choices for teachers about green efforts. Double funding for green projects in each school
 - Still discussion on a Green Council – who in the Administration Building will oversee it?
 - Can we get started this summer?
- All of the schools should be invited to have a poster or students to teach about recycling or waste reduction at Arts in the Park.
 - Lorna will send a note out to all school contacts asking for their input by May 27.
 - Lorna will contact Gilbert Architects to get a poster of Cedarbrook for display.
- At the suggestion of Chis Edelstein, Lorna will write a snail mail letter to reach out to private schools in the township about their green efforts.

Doylestown Township and Doylestown Borough
invite you to attend the
2016 Bucks-Mont EAC Summit

Where: Doylestown Township Activity Center
425 Wells Road, Doylestown, PA 18901

When: June 16th, 2016, 7:00 pm-9:00 pm

RSVP to this *FREE* event: By June 1st to Autumn Canfield
At acanfield@doylestownpa.org

We're excited to announce our two speakers:

“Return on Environment”

Presented by: Jeanne Barrett Ortiz, Program Manager,
Landscape Conservation

“Moss and Native Gardening”

Presented by: David Benner, Moss Expert