June 20, 2011 7:30 p.m.
Township Administration Building

The regular meeting of the Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) was held tonight. Voting members present were: Daryl Carrington, Barbara Duffy, Bill Mettler, Lorna Rosenberg and David Schultz. Jonathan Essoka, Ex officio member was present. Other interested public in attendance was: Dottie Baumgarten and Tom McHugh. Hannah Mazzaccaro, Montgomery County Planning Commission (MCPC) was also in attendance. Staff present was Bryan T. Havir, Assistant Township Manager.

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

2. *Acceptance of Meeting Minutes* – Mr. McHugh asked for corrections under 3.C. Transportation on page 2 to include, …"PennDot needs input on ways to remove 6,000 cars per day from I-95 during the project" and "If the R8 was reinstated it could handle more than half of that. PennDOT expected to get the R-8 reinstated". Add under 4.D Township Sustainability Plan – Mr. McHugh continues to express concern about the composition of the steering committee. Ms. Rosenberg made a motion to approve the May 16, 2011 meeting minutes as corrected; seconded by Ms. Duffy. The motion was unanimously approved.

3. *Committee Reports* -

A. *Watershed Committee* – Ms. Duffy reported on the following:

- Riparian Corridor Conservation District Ordinance Draft review. Ms. Duffy reported that the sub-committee met with Ms. Mazzaccaro, Montgomery County Planner, to inquire about updates to the draft ordinance on June 6, 2011.

- The EAC did not participate in Arts in the Park this year.

B. *Energy Committee* – Mr. Mettler announced that he would meet with Spencer Finch and Khiet Luong of Pennsylvania Environmental Council (PEC), and Ron Dunbar, Transition Cheltenham on July 14, 2011 to do a bikeability audit for the roads in and around Cedarbrook Middle School and especially between Washington Lane and Greenwood Avenue. The initial step

would be implement Township-wide network increments to provide safe routes and viability of all routes leading to Cedarbrook Middle School. The probable weak point is Church Road and at Curtis Arboretum. Funding to implement a safe bike connection at Church Road might be possible through PennDOT's "Safe Bike Routes to Schools Funding" which has its next funding deadline in September.

The EAC discussed ways to change human behavior and encourage more pedestrian and bike connectivity between neighborhoods and schools.

Mr. Mettler stated that as part of the Sustainability Committee, he would keep the Township up to date on this issue.

C. Transportation Committee – Mr. McHugh reported that he worked with Mr. Mettler on the bike route for safe crossing at Church Road for Cedarbrook Middle School. Mr. McHugh discussed PennDOT's I-95 reconstruction multi-decade project involving closure of one lane during the length of the project. Mr. McHugh discussed projects in the region's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP); and a green house emissions per million dollars invested ratio that might help PennDOT to decide where to invest its money.

D. Buildings Committee – Ms. Rosenberg mentioned outreach for someone to assume her duties as Buildings Committee Chair as she joins the Township's Sustainability General Committee as Vice Chair.

She also revisited the topic of outreach to area hospitals and educational institutions, such as the Cheltenham Township School District and Arcadia University and Salus University regarding energy efficiency. She suggested that Mr. Epstein from Interfaith Coalition who resides in the area do a presentation. Mr. Havir mentioned that a representative from PECO's Smart Ideas Program, Mike Knuckey, who supposedly has made initial outreach to these institutions about PECO's program. Mr. Havir will provide contact information to Ms. Rosenberg.

E. *Communications Committee* – Ms. Carroll was not present of offer a report. Mr. Havir announced that the Township's new website was launched on June 13, 2011 and that links should be working. Mr. McHugh asked where to find hot topic items such as Laverock and Ashbourne County Club developments.

4. *Old Business*:

A. Website Development – Mr. Schultz reported that the EAC was not in a position to report back on anything further since the last meeting. He will contact Ms. Carroll prior to the next meeting.

B. EAC Vision Statement – Mr. Schultz noted that at the last meeting, it was the consensus to take another month for Mr. Mettler and Mr. Essoka to develop a vision statement. Ms. Rosenberg felt that a vision statement will come out of the sustainability effort.

C. Township Sustainability Plan - Ms. Rosenberg stated that there will be a kick-off meeting of the General Committee on June 29, 2011 at 7:30 p.m. at Curtis Hall. Mr. Havir stated that a questionnaire was sent out to the general committee members.

Ms. Mazzaccaro, Montgomery County Planner, briefly outlined her power point presentation for the kick-off meeting which consists of an introduction letter, a one page calendar depicting the anticipated time schedule and committee meetings over the next 18 months. There will be a question and answer period. Focus will be on concrete feasible aggressive ideas, action items, transition town and EAC groups, and the most effective approach to get to goals. Ms. Mazzaccaro will break out action plan, timelines and phasing. Responsibilities such as energy audits for Township buildings will be discussed. Mr. McHugh noted that since the Transition Town and EAC is mentioned, why not include other civic organizations such as Cheltenham Chamber of Citizens (CCC). Ms. Duffy stated that she felt that within the actions and goals it will include lots of partners and the committee will most likely decide on those partners such as PECO and the School District. Ms. Mazzaccaro stated the plan is to use assessment, measurement and quantification.

Mr. Mettler asked if there would be an opportunity to see who the existing practitioners are on the general committee members. Ms. Duffy added that it is an added benefit having Ms. Mazzaccaro on the consultant team because she is a Cheltenham Township resident.

D. America In Bloom (AIB) – Mr. Havir reviewed the itinerary for AIB national judges visit on August 4-5, 2011 to tour the Township. Mr. Havir noted that on Thursday evening, August 4th, the judges will visit Elkins Park East, First Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. followed by a visit to High School Park and a chance to meet with Friends of High School Park and the EAC members and will feature a film, Precious Places by the Scribe Group, highlighting the La Mott Community Garden and High School Park. On Friday, August 5 from 1:15 – 2:14 p.m. a visit to Curtis Park with Barbara Duffy to highlight the riparian buffer projects at the lower end of the arboretum by the Dog Park. Additionally, Ms. Rosenberg will contact Dr. Bavi regarding an August 4th visit to Myers Elementary School from 4:00 to 4:15 p.m.

E. Riparian Buffer Conservation District Draft Ordinance – Ms. Mazzaccaro noted that the draft has been under review for awhile. There have been issues with development regarding small parcels/lots as discussed at the EAC sub committee meetings. Ms. Mazzaccaro now has accurate GIS mapping of geo-located stream center lines from Philadelphia Water Department. MCPC has recommended for Cheltenham Township 100' either side of development. Analysis map software indicates 921 parcels within the riparian corridor buffer with half having a structure not in conformance; and about 221 parcels that would have a hard time due to expansion on houses with reasonable amount of expansion 98% less than an acre. Boundary adjustments and exemptions were discussed in detail.

Ms. Rosenberg asked if there was an opportunity to include use of lands as it exists, implementation of Best Management Practices, ways to address erosion and maintenance of buffer. Ms. Mazzaccaro said the Zoning Ordinance may not be the best place to regulate all these items.

Next two steps proposed: 1) stand along stream ordinance and 2) Maintenance Manual for Public Works e.g., not mowing to less than 1/4 inch or spring training session; plantings stay where they are; use markers, temporary stakes.

Ms. Duffy made a motion to recommend the riparian corridor conservation district ordinance dated June 20, 2011 as written and reviewed this evening be relegated to the ad hoc zoning committee; seconded by Mr. Schultz; and unanimously approved. Continued discussion included new land development; land reconfiguration specific in draft; subdivision; fence; change of use; building permit, etc. With any lot under an acre, enforcement is clear cut on triggers and calculation for exemptions. Mr. Mettler asked about incentivizing current residents causing problems via tax break. Current ordinance does not provide incentives.

Education to residents and businesses could be provided by Tookany-Tacony/Frankford (TTF) via Backyard Buffer Workshops; and public relation articles.

5. New Business

A. Article on Economic Implications of Natural Gas Drilling in the Marcellus Shale Region was e-mailed to the members. Concerns have been expressed by Clean Water, Penn Environmental and PEC about Marcellus Shale gas drilling regulations. Discussion ensued about education on the topic and impacts on water quality and air quality. Resources such as the film titled Gaslands and organizations such as Delaware River Keeper and Heritage Conservancy were discussed. It was suggested that this item be tabled until basics are identified. The members would like to hear from TTF to see where they stand. Ms. Baumgarten will email a pdf from NOAA on background to EAC members. Ms. Duffy and Mr. Havir will make contacts with speakers.

B. DCNR Wild Resource Conservation Grant - Mr. Havir asked for a recommendation from the EAC for filing a grant application to install native plants and two rain gardens at the High School Park woodland edge community. Mr. Carrington made a motion in support of filing an

implementation application for the FY 2011-12 Wild Resource Conservation Grant Program in the amount of $30,000 for installing native plants and two rain gardens and subsequent monitoring for the High School Park Woodland Edge Community; seconded by Ms. Rosenberg and unanimously approved. The grant application is due June 30, 2011.

6. Other Business – Mr. Havir announced that the Township was presented with a ceremonial check of $7,500 from PECO's Green Region Grant for the Arcadia Trail project which will be passed through to Arcadia University toward the $40,000 project.

Mr. Havir stated he was made aware of Growing Greener statewide bond initiative *is being* proposed and the Montgomery County Lands Trust was encouraging municipalities to adopt resolutions in support of this effort. Ms. Rosenberg made a motion recommending to the Public Works Committee that it supports the adoption of a resolution in support of the Growing Greener initiative; seconded by Mr. Carrington and unanimously approved.

Mr. Havir announced Sarah Robb Grieco's last day as Executive Director of Tookany-Tacony/Frankford Watershed Partnership (TTF) is June 23, 2011. The new Executive Director (Julie Slavet) will be announced at the June 21, 2011 annual meeting of the TTF.

7. *Adjournment* – Mr. Schultz made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Ms. Duffy. The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

David G. Krayn k,
Township Manager

Submitted by:
Kathryn McDevitt

MEETING ATTENDANCE

Environmental Advisory Council

Monday, June 20, 2011 @ 7:30 P.M.

Township Administration Building
8230 Old York Road, Elkins Park, PA 19027

(Please Print Clearly)

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