

The regular meeting of the Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) was held tonight. Voting members present were: Daryl Carrington, Barbara Duffy, Bill Mettler, Miriam Moss, Lorna Rosenberg and David Schultz. Jonathan Essoka, Ex officio member was present. Other interested public in attendance was: Dottie Baumgarten.

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

2. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes – Ms. Rosenberg made a motion to approve the June 20, 2011 meeting minutes; seconded by Ms. Moss. The motion was unanimously approved.

3. Committee Reports -

A. Energy Committee – Mr. Mettler provided an update on the bikeability audit that was conducted for the roads in and around Cedarbrook Middle School and in particular the areas between Washington Lane and Greenwood Avenue that took place on July 14, 2011. Representatives from Pennsylvania Environmental Council (PEC), Spencer Finch and Khiyet Luong, Ron Dunbar of Transition Cheltenham, and members of the EAC, Cheltenham Sustainability Committee and Cheltenham Chamber of Citizens all participated in the audit which took the form of a site meeting. (see attached report). The initial step would be implement Township-wide network increments to provide safe routes and viability of all routes leading to Cedarbrook Middle School. A lengthy discussion ensued as Mr. Mettler described the concept for connectability involving a bike route from Bent Road at Greenwood moving toward Church Road. Limitations for a safe crossing at Church Road were discussed and the path would proceed through Curtis Arboretum down towards the Dog Park. A trail outside the Dog Park leads to Rock Creek Road which leads into Cedarbrook Middle School. Connections to Home Depot on Washington Lane, adjacent to Shopper's Lane were also discussed. This presents an opportunity for a walking/biking lane, path or trail which traverses Washington Lane and connects into the network of sidewalks and public

roadways in Lynnewood Garden Apartments. This area could allow for safe crossing and open up the areas south of Ashbourne to Cheltenham Avenue; Washington Lane to Old York Road to Ashbourne Road.

Mr. Carrington offered to prepare a series of conceptual drawings of the bike/ pedestrian route. He also offered suggestions for 1) implementing part of the plan and 2) looking at safe crossings such as the one mentioned above.

Mr. Mettler suggested that the first step should be having a traffic engineer review the route and 2) put on the map to circulate among EAC, etc. and 3) local presentations; grass roots effort.

Ms. Duffy felt that feedback was necessary from residents and parents to gauge their feelings about children walking and biking to school along areas such as Shopper's Lane.

Ms. Rosenberg suggested information gathering is necessary and will need a big education piece to have children walk/bike to school.

The discussion segwayed into submitting a Transportation Community Development Initiative (TCDI) Planning Grant funding application due September 1, 2011 via Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission to hire a consultant to perform a township-wide walkability and bikeability audit. Both Mr. Havir and Mr. Mettler, attended recent workshops on the TCDI grant program, and spoke about the use of the grant program to perform this type of study.

The project narrative would focus on connections to schools, neighborhoods, commercial districts, and main arteries for pedestrian linkages. Mr. Havir suggested using PEC staff as in-kind match, as well as Mr. Carrington's assistance for a grant proposal. Mr. Carrington suggested looking at maps with ¼ mile and ½ mile priorities.

A motion was made by Mr. Carrington to have Township staff prepare the wording for a resolution on behalf of the EAC recommending support of filing an application for a TCDI planning

grant to the Public Works Committee for a walkability and bikeability audit with the details to be worked out by Staff; seconded by Ms. Duffy. The motion was unanimously accepted.

B. Watershed Committee – Ms. Duffy reviewed the following items which are contained in the attached written report:

- Tookany-Tacony/Frankford Watershed Partnership (TTFWP) – a new Executive Director, Ms. Julie Slavet.
- America in Bloom Project – Ms. Duffy agreed to meet judges at Curtis Arboretum on August 5, 2011 to discuss the riparian buffer projects.
- TreeVitalize Parkview Park Planting has been confirmed for October 1, 2011.
- Earth Day Festival – planning will begin in September.
- Riparian Corridor Conservation District Ordinance draft will be moving onto the Ad Hoc Zoning committee.
- Native Plant Ordinance – draft is completed and still needs to move on to next step.

C. Transportation Committee – Mr. McHugh was not present to offer a report.

D. Buildings Committee – Ms. Rosenberg stated that she will contact Mr. Lynch about scheduling a meeting in the near future to discuss green building issues.

Ms. Rosenberg has made outreach to find someone to assist her with the recycling program at the School District.

Ms. Rosenberg gave a brief update on the status of the School District building projects.

E. Communications Committee – Ms. Carroll was not present to offer a report. Mr. Schultz will contact Ms. Carroll regarding the August meeting in order to coordinate communication issues.

4. **Old Business:**

A. Website Development – Mr. Schultz tabled this discussion to the August meeting.

B. EAC Vision Statement – Mr. Schultz tabled this discussion to the August meeting.

C. Township Sustainability Plan - Ms. Rosenberg stated that the kick-off meeting was successful and that she commended the Board of Commissioners for the development of this plan and the auspicious group of talent assembled on the General Committee. She noted that Hannah

Mazzaccaro, John Leshner and Drew Shaw of the Montgomery County Planning Commission led the discussion.

Ms. Rosenberg stated it was recommended by Commissioner Haywood and the County Planner Ms. Mazzaccaro that speakers from other communities be invited to attend to share their experiences as they developed their sustainability plans. And, that a strong facilitator was needed to manage the process by stimulating conversation and maintaining boundaries.

D. America In Bloom (AIB) – Mr. Havir reviewed the itinerary for AIB national judges visit on August 4-5, 2011 to tour the Township. The Township will be judged based on eight categories: Floral Display, Tidiness, Landscaped Areas, Urban Forestry, Heritage Preservation, Community Involvement, Turf and Groundcover Areas and Environmental Awareness. 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 Video Group, highlighting the La Mott Community Garden and High School Park. Mr. Havir invited all the EAC members to attend. In case of bad weather, the event will be moved to Curtis Hall. On Friday, August 5 from 1:15 – 2:15 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. Mr. Havir noted that he is looking for additional private gardens in the community to showcase. Ms. Rosenberg suggested the Perelman Day Care Center. Other suggestions included Cedarbrook Middle School Audubon Project and the Arcadia University Student/Citizen Garden.

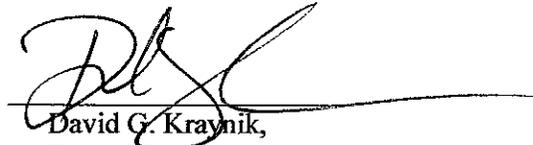
E. Riparian Buffer Conservation District Draft Ordinance – Ms. Duffy stated that the draft ordinance will be reviewed at the ad hoc zoning committee meeting in September.

F. An article on Economic Implications of Natural Gas Drilling in the Marcellus Shale Region was e-mailed to the members. Mr. Schultz stated that in follow up to last month's discussion

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that the EAC would like more information, an educational session and then brainstorming on this topic, Ms. Duffy agreed to contact TTFWP, The Delaware WaterKeepers and the Delaware River Basin Commission for speakers to provide local and regional perspective at the August meeting with a fallback date of September 19, 2011.

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



David G. Kraynik,
Township Manager

Submitted by:
Kathryn McDevitt

From: wmmettler3@aol.com
 To: mdcproductions@mac.com; pwgordon@comcast.net; msirinides@gmail.com; ccc@dunbar7.name; sfinch@pecpa.org; kluong@pecpa.org; larryshaeffer@gmail.com; tom.mchugh@monitordata.com; olga.mchugh@gmail.com; judithgratz@gmail.com
 Cc: kmcdevitt@cheltenham-township.org
 Subject: Bikeability Audit--Bastille Day 7/14/11
 Date: Mon, Jul 18, 2011 7:05 pm

7/18/11

ENERGY REPORT

Dear Bike Champions:

On Bastille Day--July 14, 8 AM the Bike Route advocates gathered at my porch at 131 Woodland Rd. Wyncote. Judith Gratz, Mark Sirinides, Ron Dunbar, Spencer Finch, Khiet Luong, Larry Shaeffer, Tom McHugh and myself. Martin Carey was instrumental in providing us with a bike route map for the morning's mission. We were representing Penn Environmental Council, Cheltenham Environmental Advisory Council, Transition Cheltenham, Cheltenham Sustainability Committee, and Cheltenham Chamber of Citizens.

Khiet and Spencer from PEC introduced: the bikeability audit, the bike infrastructure beginning to emerge on the eastern seaboard: the "Greenway" and neighboring townships connecting their bike routes, and the prospects of the TCDI funding for planning bike routes.

Our mission was to walk the proposed bike route that connects the All Hallows-Calvary Old Wyncote neighborhood to Cedarbrook neighborhood and to the destination: Cedarbrook Middle School.

The crew was briefed on our route for the morning: on foot, begin at Bent Rd. at Greenwood to the "T" junction at Church Rd.

There we would examine the crossing from Bent Rd across Church Rd. into Curtis Arboretum (where there is no stone wall).

We would continue down the slope of the arboretum onto the arboretum road and take the path that runs along the outside of the dog park fence.

This path would bring us out onto broad Rock Creek Dr. and on into Cedarbrook Middle School campus.

All along this last leg we would look for the "Northwest Passage" across the creek at the back of CMS that would join the Washington Ln neighborhood (adjacent to Home Depot) to Cedarbrook Middle School campus by foot and bike.

Conclusions:

The crossing between Bent Rd. and Church Rd. is dangerous for bikes and pedestrians.

Spencer Finch will find a traffic engineer to help us arrive at the most viable proposal (one that PennDot would agree to) for a safe crossing for active transport: foot and pedal. across Church to enable the CMS bike route.

We searched all along the creek for old footpaths/bike paths between the Washington Ln neighborhood and Rock Creek Dr./CMS campus and found no viable route. The most immediate and lowest cost prospect would be a bike/ped path that parallels Shoppers Drive at Home Depot, on around to Ogontz and into the southern most tip (through the fence) of the Cedarbrook MS campus.

An additional bike/ped crossing that could connect this route with the Lynwood Gardens apts. is badly needed at the intersection of Shoppers Lane where it "T"s into Washington Ln. This simple bike ped crossing addition to the already existing traffic light plus a safe bike/ped path could give the 5000 people who live in Lynwood Gardens a walking or biking option to the shopping center as well as to CMS.

I attended the Transportation & Community Development Initiative (TCDI) meeting downtown and learned about the regs and in-kind matching services/funds for the bid for a planning grant for bike projects. There were more than 40 municipalities, agencies and NGOs represented and interested in planning funds for bicycle projects--a good indicator that bike infrastructure is on the move.

Spencer Finch was also at the meeting and said that he and PEC are with us for our bike route bids.

Respectfully Submitted,
 Bill Mettler
 Teammate:
 EAC

Watershed Committee Report: EAC Meeting July 18, 2011

* Attended Sara RobbGreico's going away party on June 21st. She will be truly missed by all.
Here is the announcement from TTF Partnership for the new Executive Director:

"Please join us in welcoming Julie Slavet as the Tookany/Tacony-Frankford Watershed Partnership's newest Executive Director. Julie was selected from among a group of highly qualified finalists for the position and brings to TTF talents and experience that will be critical as we move forward with our dedicated partners in implementing ambitious stormwater solutions in the watershed.

Julie brings over 20 years of increasing responsibility in community affairs, program development, and personnel management. Most recently, she served as the senior district staff member for Congresswoman Allyson Schwartz, leading constituent services and outreach efforts in a district of 650,000 constituents in Montgomery County and Northeast Philadelphia. Throughout her career, Julie has been instrumental in building relationships with elected and appointed officials at all levels of government, as well as in corporate, educational and community-based organizations."

*** Participate in the "America in Bloom" program on August 5th.** Leading a tour at Curtis Arboretum along Rock Creek.

*** Fall TreeVitalize at Parkview Park**--At the end of August we will gear up for our fall planting at Parkview Park. We will create a flyer to go out to neighbors of the park. Cedarbrook Middle School and CHS students will also be invited to help plant as well as the general public via email blasts from the EAC and TTF Partnership.

***Planning for the 2012 Cheltenham Community Earth Day Festival will begin in September.** We will have a brainstorming meeting to come up with new ideas to rejuvenate our Earth Day Festival.

***Riparian Corridor Conservation District Ordinance Draft review, as noted from our last EAC meeting,** will be moving onto the Ad Hoc Zoning committee. The Ad Hoc Committee will not be meeting in July or August so the review will be scheduled for their September meeting.

*** Native Plant ordinance-** this draft ordinance is completed and still needs to move onto the next step, but is on hold due to the focus on the Riparian Corridor Ordinance.

Submitted by Barbara Duffy