

The regular meeting of the Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) was held tonight.

Voting members present were: Daryl Carrington, Barbara Duffy, Miriam Moss and David Schultz. Jonathan Essoka, Ex officio member was present. Other interested public in attendance were: Dottie Baumgarten and Tom McHugh. Guests present were: Jon Leshner, County Planner, Montgomery County Planning Commission and Mary Meyers, Chair, Department of Landscape Architecture and Horticulture, Temple University, Ambler Campus. (See attached attendance sheet).

1. **Call to Order** – Mr. Schultz called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.
2. **Acceptance of Meeting Minutes** – Ms. Duffy made a motion to approve the July 18, 2011 meeting minutes; seconded by Mr. Carrington. The motion was unanimously approved.
3. **A Presentation** was conducted by Jon Leshner, Planner for the Montgomery County Planning Commission, describing a federal grant through the Department of Energy referred to as the Solar Rooftop Challenge. This focuses on grid connected rooftop Photo Voltaics in the residential and commercial sectors. He emphasized the proposal would look at ways to collaborate and form a regional coalition of stakeholders including local government representatives to explore ways at streamlining and standardizing the municipal permitting application and interconnection processes. The project period would be one year. (See attached). Discussion ensued following the presentation about the commitment and benefits of the grant opportunity.

Mr. Carrington made a motion requesting that Mr. Havar draft a letter of support to Smart Energy Initiative for a commitment up to ten (10) hours of Township Staff administrative in-kind time to review documents as part of the regional effort. Mr. Carrington requested the draft

support letter be e-mailed to the voting members of the EAC for review and approval; seconded by Ms. Duffy prior to sending it to the County. (See attached draft support letter)

4. *A Presentation* was conducted by Mary Meyers, Chair, Department of the Landscape Architecture and Horticulture, Temple University, Ambler Campus regarding a proposal to develop a landscape design studio to re-vegetate with natives and provide public access and a trail design to connect the Cedarbrook Middle School and the various abutting neighborhoods to the Curtis Arboretum by graduate students for a linear greenway abutting Rock Creek Tributary. (See attached). Ms. Myers offered some background information on her education, and experience with similar projects in Philadelphia and Cape May, New Jersey, as well as the benefits of the project in securing future grant funding. Following a lengthy discussion regarding the site location, condition of the site and adjoining neighborhood, project costs, and other sites, etc., it was noted that in order to move forward with the proposal, a decision would have to be made in the next three weeks in order for the Temple Landscape Design and Architecture Department to select which projects would be scheduled for the semester. Mr. Schultz asked if Ms. Myers would be able to attend an upcoming Public Works Committee Meeting to offer background on the proposal.

Mr. Havir announced that the Montgomery County Open Space Board had recently recommended a \$190,000 Open Space Grant to the Township for on-going streambank restoration work at Ralph Morgan Park. The County Commissioners are scheduled to approve this funding in early September.

Mr. Schultz made a motion to recommend that the Public Works Committee consider the proposal for a landscape design studio for the Rock Creek Tributary and that the cost of \$5,000 to design the studio for a 11.81 acre linear greenway area abutting the Rock Creek Tributary be put in the 2012 Capital Budget with the idea that the Township Staff and EAC look at ways to

seek matching funding from other partners such as TreeVitalize, Tookany/Tacony-Frankford Watershed Partnership, etc., to reduce the overall project cost. The motion was seconded by Ms. Duffy and unanimously approved.

5. Committee Reports -

A. Energy Committee – Mr. Mettler was not present to review his report but did submit a written report via e-mail which 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. (See attached)

Mr. Schultz asked Mr. Carrington to share his preliminary conceptual drawing of the bike/ pedestrian route. Mr. Carrington explained the system depicted on the drawing which showed arterial roadways running north-south and east-west, and noted colored squares indicating future bike routes, green colored areas for opportunities to provide greenway connections, and circles indicating the need for safe crossings at intersections for walking and biking, and other areas such as schools, and circles indicating ¼ and ½ mile walking distances to train stations. The EAC reviewed the drawing and offered suggestions. Mr. Carrington said he would share this preliminary drawing with the Sustainability Plan Steering Committee as well as provide additional documentation for a Transportation Development Community Initiative (TCDI) grant.

B. Watershed Committee – Ms. Duffy reviewed the following items:

- America in Bloom Project – Ms. Duffy stated that she had provided a description of the riparian buffer project at Curtis Dog Park to the America In Bloom judges on August 5, 2011 and attended a luncheon at the La Mott Community Center. She felt that it was a positive experience.
- Riparian Corridor Conservation District Ordinance draft will be moving onto the Ad Hoc Zoning Committee at its September 26, 2011 meeting for recommendation to the Building and Zoning Committee.

Ms. Baumgarten noted that she has offered to provide education on best management practices for storm water management to the liaisons of the Economic Development Task Force for businesses in the five commercial districts. Five workshops will be scheduled for October beginning with the Glenside Commercial District. This will assist the Township with MS4 annual reporting.

C. Transportation Committee – Mr. McHugh reviewed Mr. Carrington’s drawing and suggested adding Arcadia University where Panther Road “T’s” at Church Road, and look at a path to Renninger Park along the old Number 6 Trolley Line which runs parallel to Bickley and between Bishop McDevitt High School at Glenside Free Library. He also suggested a possible connection through the Perley Bird Sanctuary off Glenside Avenue to Ridgeway Road.

Mr. McHugh noted that he still continues to attend Public Safety Committee meetings with an interest in having the “no pedestrian crossing” signs removed at the Rices Mill and Glenside Avenue intersection. Mr. Havar reiterated that PennDOT has certain requirements and without actual pedestrian lights and warning signs at this intersection, the “no pedestrian crossing” signs are necessary. Mr. McHugh also commented on the stop sign removal from the Waverly Road and Glenside Avenue intersection.

Mr. McHugh wished to clarify that the TCDI grant referred to at this meeting was the same TCDI grant discussed to at the Public Affairs meeting. Mr. Havar stated a recommendation was made at last month’s EAC meeting to apply for grant funds to hire a consultant to undertake a Township-wide walkability and bike-ability audit for all of the neighborhood’s (Glenside, Laverock, Wyncote, Elkins Park, Rowland Park, Melrose Park, La Mott, Lynnewood Gardens and Cheltenham Village) that comprise the Township’s 9.06 square miles. Mr. Havar noted the grant application was discussed at the Public Affairs meeting because the EDTF also supported the same project.

Mr. McHugh noted the DVRPC /RCC had suspended ad hoc meetings. Mr. McHugh continues to work on a tool to rate the region's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP); with a green house emissions per million dollars invested ratio.

D. Buildings Committee – Ms. Rosenberg was unable to attend the meeting but did submit a written report which was e-mailed to everyone and provided updates on recycling at the School District and student representation at the EAC meetings as well as in Delaware Valley Green Building Council Student Conservation Corps.

Her report also provided an update on Sustainable Cheltenham (See attached).

E. Communications Committee – Ms. Carroll was not present to offer a report. At this time, it was mentioned by Ms. Duffy that Ms. Carroll forwarded an e-mail earlier today resigning from the EAC due to work and family commitments.

6. Old Business:

At this time, Chairman Schultz requested that, in the future, presentations should be limited to one at each meeting so that all of the agenda items can be discussed in a timely manner.

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

B. EAC Vision Statement – Mr. Schultz tabled this discussion to the September meeting. Mr. Essoka stated that he would e-mail the members the current draft of the vision statement.

C. Ms. Duffy stated that she is still working to get a speaker for an upcoming meeting from TTFWP, The Delaware RiverKeepers and/or the Delaware River Basin regarding local and regional perspectives on Natural Gas Drilling in the Marcellus Shale Region.

7. New Business – Mr. De Maria announced that he was, at the direction of the Board of Commissioners, present this evening to provide an update to the EAC for their review and evaluation of a pilot project for lavender seedlings. Mr. De Maria stated that he has been

working with the Cheltenham Township School District to develop a pilot lavender project which was well received by the School District Alternative Revenue Committee as well as the Director of Support Services and Cedarbrook Middle School.

Mr. De Maria noted that he has 200,000 seeds and that approximately 2500 seeds could be planted per acre. Mr. Carrington also noted that the planting of 200,000 seeds would require approximately 80 acres for planting. Mr. De Maria stated that he could plant as many seeds as the Township wants; extract lavender oil which has many uses, and as the seedling matures he could make ethanol from this product. Mr. De Maria estimates that it would take two years to propagate cuttings for more potential. He would ultimately like to have the opportunity to make ethanol from the Township's collection of paper and trash.

Ms. Duffy, Vice-Chair, questioned the two year period that is required and suggested that since Mr. De Maria has begun a pilot project with the School District, she would like to see him succeed with them first and report back to the EAC in one year on the progress of the project.

Mr. De Maria felt that would create a one year lag.

Mr. De Maria added that he has two greenhouses in New Jersey that have been offered to him to raise seedlings, and offers of other space for his lavender plantings. Mr. De Maria stated that he does not need land or money. He stated that he wished to give back to the Township. He would share profit from lavender oil, as well as bio mass, if the project proceeded.

Mr. Schultz recommended that he continue to work with the land donated to him by others, come back in a year to the EAC to see what has been accomplished with the pilot program through the School District.

8. Other Business –

Based on a question asked by Ms. Duffy, Mr. Havir explained the work on the relocation of the transcontinental gas line from the Ashmead Bridge to lands within Tookany Park which

August 15, 2011 7:30 p.m.
Township Administration Building

was necessitated by the Ashmead Bridge Replacement Project. He noted the plans were reviewed by the Public Works Committee last week.

Ms. Moss announced that she had received an e-mail about a protest at Temple University to save the La Mott Community Garden and asked Mr. Essoka to send out the e-mail to the EAC members.

9. Adjournment – Mr. Schultz made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Ms. Moss. The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 p.m.



David G. Kraynik,
Township Manager

Submitted by:
Kathryn McDevitt

Solar Rooftop Challenge

What is it?

-A federal grant through the Department of Energy issued 6/11/2011

What's the goal?

-“On February 4, 2011, Department of Energy Secretary Steven Chu formally announced the “SunShot” Initiative with the goal of achieving 5-6 cents/kWh costs for utility scale solar PV systems, 6-8 cents/kWh for commercial systems, and 6-9 cents/kWh for residential systems, by 2020. At these target cost levels, solar electricity will be cost-competitive with other forms of energy without subsidies across the U.S.”

-“The Challenge focuses specifically on grid-connected rooftop PV in the residential and commercial sectors, and emphasizes streamlined and standardized permitting and interconnection processes.”

-The awardees are working towards reducing the “soft costs” or “balance of system” costs. These are broken down into four action areas:

- Permitting and Interconnection Processes
- Net Metering and Interconnection Standards
- Financing Options
- Planning and Zoning

What do we get?

-Set up as a possible two phase grant. We are currently applying for Phase I.

-Phase 1 will award 20 to 25 applicants \$250,000-\$1,000,000 each.

-Phase 1 awardees will be graded on their progress after a year.

ACTION AREA	POINTS
Permitting Process	460
Application	110
Information Access	60
Process Time	110
Fee	30
Model Process	30
Inspection	80
Communication w/ Utility	40
Interconnection Process	110
Application	40
Information Access	20
Process Time	20
Inspection	30
Interconnection Standard	100
Net Metering Standard	100
Financing Options	150
Third Party Ownership (or equivalent)	90
Direct Finance Options	25
Community Solar	15
Other	20
Planning and Zoning	80
Solar Rights and Access	54
Zoning	20
New Construction	6
TOTAL POINTS POSSIBLE	1000

- Those that score over 800 points in Phase 1 qualify for a possible Phase 2
Scoring based off of Attachment 1 in the application process.
- Phase 2 will be more money, last for 2 years, and the goal for Phase 2 is to “achieve implementation of common process framework for PV permitting throughout the awardees’ state, and more broadly if possible.”

Who’s going to do it?

- The DOE wants coalitions of government entities and non-profits with a jurisdiction over a population over 500,000.
- Must have jurisdiction over land use policy to be a partner in the coalition.
- SEI has become the lead applicant.
- Participants include the City of Philadelphia, PECO, The Reinvestment Fund, and participating municipalities in Montgomery, Chester and Delaware Counties.

What would we do with the money?

- We have submitted a proposed Phase 1 project scope to SEI.
- It includes these major ideas:

Permitting Process

- Research and compile existing permitting processes and forms at municipal level throughout the region.
- Develop model streamlined common permitting process and form, both in print and electronic format.

Interconnection

- Work with PECO and local installers (advisory group) to research PECO’s existing interconnection and installer experience with using this process.
- Draft report highlighting. This report will be developed in conjunction with Task 2 and task 4 and integrated into program to improve permitting/interconnection process.
- Review best practices for electronic submission of permitting and interconnection process throughout the nation. Evaluate how an electronic submission process should be configured given what was developed and learned, as well as compliance with municipalities.

Planning and Zoning

- Develop and put into force in all participating jurisdictions a zoning code for rooftop solar that is as uniform and supportive of rooftop solar as feasible using the DVRPC AEOWG project as a model.

Financing

- The FOA outlines three specific branches of financing: 1) third party ownership or equivalent, 2) direct finance options, 3) community solar. Attachment 1 indicates that DOE will score grantees on their work developing these forms of financing in the region predominately by their ability to remove of regulatory barriers at the state and local level and develop programmatic offerings at the utility level. Thus, in order to achieve points in the financing area of Attachment 1, the project team will need to be comprised of entities that can work with PECO and the PA PUC to remove regulatory barriers and develop programs like community solar. With the availability of funds through TRF, a Direct Finance option appears to be our region’s strength at the present moment with education on third party ownership.

What are the next steps?

- The final application is due August 31st.
- Each partner has to submit a letter of commitment and a completed Attachment 1.
- SEI is planning to hold a meeting shortly to help municipalities make sure their Attachment is completed correctly.
- I will be available to help municipalities through the process.

August 23, 2011

Smart Energy Initiative of Southeastern Pennsylvania
Eagle Corporate Center
737 Constitution Drive
Exton, PA 19341

RE: Rooftop Solar Challenge to Induce Market Transformation

Dear Messrs. Lauckner and Williams:

Cheltenham Township, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania is pleased to provide a letter of support to the Smart Energy Initiative's August 31, 2011 grant application for the above referenced project.

Cheltenham Township is willing to commit up to ten (10) hours of administrative staff time to attend meetings of the project advisory group to 1) review documents relating to developing a database of permit processes for installers; or 2) to make recommendations to improve current connection process in PECO territory; or 3) evaluate means for streamlining application submittals for permitting process and/or 4) reviewing draft amendments to municipal ordinances as necessary.

We thank you for the opportunity to participate in this regional energy initiative grant opportunity.

Sincerely,

Bryan T. Havir, P.P., AICP
Assistant Township Manager

BTH/km

cc: David G. Kraynik, Township Manager
David M. Lynch, Director – Engineering, Zoning & Inspections
Hannah Mazzaccaro, Planner, MCPC
David McVeigh Schultz, EAC Chairman

Temple University Department of Landscape Architecture and Horticulture

Proposal for Cheltenham Township Design Concepts for Rock Creek Park

The Temple University Department of Landscape Architecture & Horticulture mission is to improve the environment through application of ecologically based design. We are pleased to assist Cheltenham Township with its continuing efforts in ecological restoration and public open space design through course work within the Master of Landscape Architecture program.

We propose to undertake in-depth inventory and assessment of Rock Creek Park, which has been identified as first order tributary of the Tookany Creek. The work will occur during Fall academic semester 2011. Students will be led by Department Chair and Landscape Architect Mary Myers and Applied Ecologist John Munro in these efforts. The work will be integrated into Woodland Design Studio and Northeastern Woodland Ecosystems---companion courses whose content informs each other.

Students and faculty will conduct 3 public meetings with township residents and especially interested neighbors/property owners. Meeting #1 will be a visioning meeting to elicit the goals of residents for the site. Meeting #2 will involve a presentation of the resulting program, analysis of the ecological quality of the site and preliminary concept designs for public response. Meeting #3 will present a final concept plan for the site.

Products:

1. Program outlining public goals and objectives for the use of the park
2. Ecological Inventory of existing conditions
3. Restoration concept based upon site reference data and visits to comparable reference site(s).
4. Plan showing park's link to larger public recreation network, greenways and city open space.
5. Three design concept alternatives
6. Final concept plan

Fees:

Programming, data collection and meetings	\$1,000.00
Ecological Assessment (including reference data and site)	\$1,000.00
Concept design alternatives	\$1,500.00
Materials for drawings, models, printing And travel to site and reference site(s)	\$1,500.00
Total	\$5,000.00

Here is a progress report on the Bike Trail Network (which I have morphed into the Energy Report):

A Walkable, Bikeable Community

To this end, a proposed Bike Route Network has been drawn up with bike routes through every neighborhood of our township. The thoroughfares of: Limekiln Pike, Easton Road, Washington Lane, Old York Road, Tookany Creek Parkway (*vertical roads on Township map*) and Township Line, Church Road and Cheltenham Ave. (*horizontal roads on Township map*) both define and separate our neighborhoods. 14 "pinch points" have been identified (mostly at intersections with traffic lights). These pinch points are places where low-cost safe crossing solutions can be applied to connect our neighborhoods by foot and bike. Additionally, 10 roads have been identified as wide enough to paint bike lanes to make biking and walking on the adjacent sidewalks safer. On 14 July, The Bike Route Team (8 of us from PEC, EAC, TC, CCC and CSC (Cheltenham Sustainability Committee)) walked the All Hallows--Cedarbrook Middle School route together to look at one pinch point and the routes connecting three neighborhoods to Cedarbrook MS. Spencer Finch of PEC will be connecting us with Traffic Engineering expertise to look at low-cost safe crossing solutions and proposed painted bike lanes on our selected routes. The Bike Route Network is an evolving work in progress.

Both Daryl Carrington (Temple U. architecture and sustainability) and Hannah Mazzaccaro (Montgomery County Planning Commission) have generously offered mapping of the Bike Route Network. In a "both..and" spirit we will be able to see which additional features to the bike route network maps will offer the best service to biking-citizens. Daryl has the latest version of the Bike Route Network (described above).

Good luck with the vision statement, Jonathan--everyone, have a great meeting.

Respectfully,
Bill Mettler

EAC update on Buildings and Sustainable Cheltenham

Lorna Rosenberg – August 15, 2011

Buildings Sub-committee

- Met with Superintendent Darlene Davis to discuss:
 - Becky Messa, new parent liaison for recycling district-wide (Dr. Davis will contact and move ahead with this.
 - Student representation on the EAC and Sustainable Cheltenham – EAC to write up a job description for both involvements. She will be linking the environmental efforts of students to the Student Council at the High School if that is possible. She will keep us posted as we get closer to the school year.
 - Student participation in Delaware Valley Green Building Council Student Conservation Corps. Workshop to involve training students to work with teacher representative and the facilities manager to assess their school for opportunities to save energy. Dr. Davis will connect through the Student Council to seek students to participate in this program.

Sustainable Cheltenham

- Launched program on June 29, with about 50 attendees; next meeting of the steering committee August 16, 2011. The August 16, 2011 meeting will involve a smaller group of about 25 to discuss what is a community Sustainability Plan, Who is participating, What public input and outreach are required. There will be a discussion of the visioning session that is planned for Sept 22.
- A website has been created for the project **by the Montgomery County Planning Office.**
- <https://sites.google.com/site/sustainablecheltenham/>
- A visioning session is planned for Sept 22 which will be open to the Community as well as anyone on the steering or larger committee.
- Lorna Rosenberg is working with Hannah Mazzacaro and John Leshner to include a presentation on Sept 22 by Sustainable Cherry Hill as the “opener” to our visioning session. Also, working with the Montco Planning Office to secure a facilitator either from the Community or from EPA.