

**RADNOR TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL**

MINUTES

The September meeting of the Radnor Township Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) was called to Order by Vice Chairperson Josh Hilbert at 6:00 P.M. on September 27, 2012 at the Radnor Township Municipal Building, Radnorshire Room, 301 Iven Avenue, Wayne, Pennsylvania.

Those present were: Josh Hilbert, Vice Chairperson
 Stephen Elliot
 Robin Mann
 Anne Poulin
 Sloan Walker
 Skip Kunda, Planning Commission Representative
 Chris Campbell, Parks and Recreation Representative

Those not present were: Brenda Gotanda, Chairperson
 Daniel Meier
 Kelly Doyle, Board of Health Representative

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF AUGUST 2012 MINUTES

On motions made and seconded, the minutes of the August 23, 2012, EAC meeting were unanimously approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Hilbert made the following announcements:

1. Radnor Township engaged Chagrin Valley Engineering in June of this year to review alternate storm water management options for North Wayne Park. Their presentation, "North Wayne Park Stormwater Management Options – An Overview," presented three options for managing storm water that is processed through the park. Cost estimates ranged from approximately \$1 to \$1.5M. That park's facilities handle only 8% of the total drainage area that drains through the Poplar Avenue culvert so an improved stormwater management system at the park would provide only an incremental improvement in addressing flooding along the Gulph Creek corridor. More information is available at www.radnor.com.

2. The Radnor Conservancy and the Radnor Township EAC are presenting a program on Storm Water Resources on Thursday, November 29, 2012, at 7 p.m. at the Radnor Township Municipal Building. Stroud Water Research, a Chester County non-profit dedicated to the scientific research of wetlands, streams and rivers, will to be the presenter (<http://www.stroudcenter.org/>).

3. The Garrett Hill Coalition is presenting a program, "Managing Stormwater in our Backyards, Part 1: How to Install a Rain Garden at your Property (and Why!)," on Sunday, September 30, 2012 from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. at the Radnor Township Municipal Building (www.savegarretthill.com).
4. The Pennsylvania Resources Council and the Darby Creek Valley Association are presenting a program, "Simple Steps to Protect the Darby Creek at Home," on Wednesday October 10, 2012, at 6:30pm at the Watkins Senior Center in Upper Darby. Attendees will learn how to harvest rainwater from their roofs and divert it for on-site usage in the landscape. Attendees will also construct fully functional rain barrels from recycled food grade barrels to take home and use on their properties. Register online at www.prc.org
5. The Chester County Citizens for Climate Protection is presenting a program, "Sustainability at the Township and Community Level," on Wednesday, October 3, 2012, at 7:00 p.m. at the West Chester Borough Hall(www.chescocooler.org). The program will focus, first, on a case study of West Vincent Township's Sustainability Plan and Process and, second, address "Assessing Sustainability: The First Step in Creating a Sustainable Community." The Brandywine Conservancy's Environmental Management Center will discuss the extent to which a municipality's plans, ordinances and policies either promote, or are an obstacle to, community-wide sustainability.
6. Community Energy, a Radnor-based entity that is developing the market and supply of fuel-free electricity, invite all to attend the "Turn the Power On" celebration to mark the beginning of Keystone Solar on Tuesday, October 16, from 9:30a.m. to 12p.m. at Kreider Farm, Lancaster County (www.communityenergyinc.com). At 6MW, Keystone Solar is Pennsylvania's largest solar farm.

Ms. Mann announced that the Township is looking at the possibility of purchasing green energy.

WORKGROUP REPORTS AND DISCUSSION

A. GHG Reduction

- i. Mr. Hilbert reported that the Radnor Green Team, expects to have its first meeting in October.
- ii. On Wednesday, September 19, 2012, he attended a seminar offered by DVRPC and PECO titled "Strategies to Save Money and Energy in Street Lighting: A Roundtable with DVRPC and PECO." The method for setting costs for street lighting electricity were explained. Mr. Hilbert learned that 2/3 of a typical street lighting bill are fixed and that actual usage fees represent only about 1/3 of the bill. As a result, reducing consumption by 50% would yield only about a 17% reduction in the bill. In Radnor Township, this means that approximately \$9000 of the \$15,000 expense for street lighting electricity is fixed and would not decrease even if Radnor reduced the amount of electricity used for street lighting. Mr. Hilbert will share this information with the Township. DVRPC will offer a follow-up seminar on techniques to upgrade public lighting more effectively. More information is available at <http://www.dvrpc.org/energyclimate/>.

- iii. Ms. Mann reported that the DVRCP is developing a new GHG inventory report based on data through 2010, expected to be released in December 2012. The report will include data on the life cycle of energy sources as well as information on the emissions of specific geographic units. It will also highlight GHG reduction strategies.

B. Sustainability

1. WaterSense Tip of the Month

- i. Mr. Walker reported that WaterSense is running a Battle of the Building, placing buildings around the country in direct competition to see which can achieve the greatest reduction in energy and water use. The top water saver nationally will receive an award in April 2012. For information, visit <http://www.epa.gov/watersense/>.
- ii. Mr. Walker also distributed an article reporting that Georgia is offering sales tax holiday for a few days in early October on WaterSense appliances, an initiative prompted by severe drought conditions in the State. The EAC agreed to support a resolution asking the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to offer a similar incentive for the purchase of WaterSense. Mr. Walker will circulate a draft resolution.

2. Rain Garden

Ms. Hilbert had no information on the current status of the Garret Hill project.

The EAC is waiting to help the Township identify the appropriate plants and mobilize the volunteers who have agreed to work on planting. The goal is still to complete work on the garden in the 2-3 weeks still left for planting this fall.

C. Planning Committee/Institutional Zoning

Mr. Kunda reported that the next meeting of the Planning Commission to consider revision of the Institutional Zoning Ordinance will be held on September 6, 2012, at 7:30 p.m. in the Radnor Municipal Building. He will circulate preliminary materials as soon as he receives them. He noted that meetings on this matter may continue into December.

D. Open Space Committee

Ms. Poulin reported on the work of the Greenways and Open Space Network Plan Subcommittee is still working on the scope of work under the DCNR grant for the Township Open Space Plan.

C. Community Environmental Awareness

No report.

LIAISON REPORTS

A. Planning Commission

Mr. Kunda had circulated the most recent report from the consultant working with the Township on Institutional Zoning. The most recent draft of the ordinance includes language about LEED

certification and conservation easements. It will be discussed at the meeting on Thursday, October 4. Mr. Kunda flagged some specific issues on which the EAC could be helpful, such as gathering information on green roofs and suggesting a definition of "green roof." Mr. Walker circulated the ordinance from Tredyffrin Township. A discussion followed, considering in part the relative advantages of flexible versus specific language.

B. Board of Health

No report this month.

C. Parks and Recreation

Mr. Campbell gave a report on the summer programs offered by the Township. The summer was very active and went well. There is a subcommittee of the Parks and Recreation Board which is working on the Willows project. In October, proposals for what to do with the property should be submitted. Revenue-generating events have declined in the past few years. The Subcommittee is seeking public input.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no further public participation.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on a motion made and seconded, the meeting of the Environmental Advisory Council was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Poulin