

**RADNOR TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL**

MINUTES

The October meeting of the Radnor Township Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) was called to Order by Chairperson Brenda Gotanda at 6:00 P.M. on October 25, 2012 at the Radnor Township Municipal Building, Radnorshire Room, 301 Iven Avenue, Wayne, Pennsylvania.

Those present were: Brenda Gotanda, Chairperson
 Josh Hilbert, Vice Chairperson
 Daniel Meier
 Anne Poulin
 Sloan Walker
 Chris Campbell, Parks and Recreation Representative

Those not present were: Stephen Elliot
 Robin Mann
 Skip Kunda, Planning Commission Representative
 Kelly Doyle, Board of Health Representative

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 2012 MINUTES

On motion made and seconded, the minutes of the September 27, 2012, EAC meeting were unanimously approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Gotanda made the following announcements:

1. The next EAC meeting will be the joint November/December meeting on Tuesday November 27, 2012, at 6:00 p.m.
2. The Radnor Conservancy and the Radnor Township EAC will be co-hosting a program on Storm Water Resources on Thursday, November 29, 2012, at 7 p.m. at the Radnor Township Municipal Building. Vivian Williams of Stroud Water Research, a Chester County non-profit dedicated to the scientific research of wetlands, streams and rivers, will be the presenter (<http://www.stroudcenter.org/>). This program is part of the ongoing Sustainability Series (see www.radnor.com).
3. The Garrett Hill Coalition is presenting the second part of its program on "Managing Stormwater in our Backyards." The Coalition will hold "A Rain Garden Workshop" at Macrone Park on October 27, 2012, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. (www.savegarretthill.com). The program offers the opportunity to help or watch the installation of a rain garden. Mr. Meier will attend for the EAC in light of the work on the rain garden at Cowan Park in which the EAC will partner with the Township in 2013.

4. The Delaware Valley Green Building Council held its annual celebration on September 27 at the Barnes Foundation, a LEED Platinum building. Ms. Gotanda reported that the event was a great success and that the Barnes building is an outstanding example of green building. EAC members discussed the possibility of getting an expert to speak to the EAC on the LEED certification process and requirements.

The DVGBC celebration launched preparations for the annual Greenbuild conference of the U.S. Green Building Council, which will be held in Philadelphia in 2013. Ms. Gotanda will be active in planning for the conference. For more information about how to get involved in the 2013 conference/expo, visit <http://www.dvgbc.org/>.

5. On September 29, 2012, the Center for Green Schools at the U.S. Green Building Council sponsored the first annual Green Apple Day of Service promoting the greening of schools across the nation and around the world. The Day was a success, with a number of schools in this area and over 1250 schools in 49 countries worldwide participating. Ms. Gotanda described the project at Ithan Elementary School. To plan for next year, visit the Green Apple Day website at mygreenapple.org.

WORKGROUP REPORTS AND DISCUSSION

A. GHG Reduction

Mr. Hilbert reported that the Radnor Green Team is scheduled to meet on November 8 at 11:00 a.m. EAC members are invited to attend.

B. Sustainability

1. WaterSense Resolution

Mr. Walker presented a proposed resolution recommending that Pennsylvania offer an annual sales tax holiday for those who purchase WaterSense fixtures and appliances, similar to tax sales holidays offered in several other states. The language was discussed. On motions made and seconded, the following resolution was approved:

WHEREAS, droughts have occurred with increasing frequency and severity in Pennsylvania over the past two decades;¹

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania has experienced significant droughts in five of the last seven years;²

WHEREAS, the average family of four uses approximately 400 gallons of water every day;³

WHEREAS, Radnor Township is a Promotional Partner in the United States Environmental Protection Agency's WaterSense Program, which promotes water efficiency and conservation through public education and water-efficient WaterSense labeled products and programs;

¹ PennState College of Agricultural Sciences, Drought and Climate Information, <http://extension.psu.edu/water/drought>

² Id. at Frequently Asked Questions – Drought, <http://extension.psu.edu/water/drought/faqs>

³ EPA WaterSense, Indoor Water Use in the United States, <http://www.epa.gov/WaterSense/pubs/indoor.html>

WHEREAS, citizens of Pennsylvania can significantly reduce their water use by installing faucets and appliances which bear the WaterSense label from the United States Environmental Protection Agency;⁴ therefore be it

RESOLVED, that, in order to encourage Pennsylvanians to conserve water, the Radnor Environmental Advisory Council recommends that the General Assembly and Governor of Pennsylvania declare an annual tax holiday for up to one week on all products bearing a WaterSense label.

Next steps were discussed. The EAC will seek support for the tax holiday from other organizations, such as other EACs, the Radnor Conservancy, and the area water companies. Mr. Walker will seek advice on the most effective way to proceed from those involved in the legislative process.

2. WaterSense Tip of the Month

Mr. Walker suggested a number of ways to save water in the kitchen: plug the sink when washing dishes; run the dishwasher only when it is full; keep a pitcher of water in the refrigerator rather than running the tap to get cool water; compost kitchen waste rather than using the garbage disposal.

3. Rain Garden

No further report.

C. Planning Committee/Institutional Zoning

Mr. Walker reported that he had received a revised copy of the draft ordinance governing institutional zoning just before the meeting. It was to include additional green incentives. He will forward it to the EAC. Discussion of the importance of permitting taller buildings to preserve open space followed.

D. Community Environmental Awareness

Mr. Hilbert raised the question of how to improve recycling in the school lunchrooms, a step to conserve resources and to develop the lifelong habit of recycling. Peggy Hagan of the Township has expressed interest in having the schools run a competition to design a poster promoting recycling that she could use in Township literature. Discussion followed. Mr. Walker will follow up.

LIAISON REPORTS

A. Planning Commission

No report this month.

B. Board of Health

No report this month.

⁴ Id.

C. Parks and Recreation

Mr. Campbell reported that the Parks and Recreation Board met on October 11 and began the process of digesting the nine proposals submitted to the Township for use of the Willows mansion. On November 8, 2012, the Committee will meet and hear presentations from the nine proposers. They will then select the strongest proposals, which will be vetted in public meetings. The goal is to wrap the process up and have a something in place by August 2013.

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