

**RADNOR TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL**

MINUTES

The February meeting of the Radnor Township Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) was called to Order by Chairperson Josh Hilbert at 6:00 P.M. on February 27, 2014 at the Radnor Township Municipal Building, Radnorshire Room, 301 Iven Avenue, Wayne, Pennsylvania.

Those present were: Josh Hilbert, Chairperson
 Sloan Walker, Vice Chairperson
 Skip Kunda, Planning Commission Representative
 Luke Clark, Parks and Recreation Representative
 Sally Mattison
 Stephen Elliot
 Matthew Holtman

Those not present were:
 Daniel Meier
 Anne Poulin

CALL TO ORDER

APPROVAL OF JANUARY 2014 MINUTES

On motion made and seconded, the minutes of the January 23, 2014 EAC meeting were unanimously approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Hilbert made the following announcements:

1. The 2014 Storm Water Management Workshop will be held on March 13th at the Saint Joseph's University campus. Themes include challenges and opportunities for homeowners and others on storm water management issues; using social media to coordinate storm water response, etc. Landscape architect Margot Taylor will lecture on landscaping your own property for beauty & storm water management. <http://www.sju.edu/int/academics/cas/resources/stormwater/>
2. Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRCP) has a project aimed at bolstering solar power uptake. DVRPC is partnering with several other councils on the Solar Ready II project, funded by a U.S. Department of Energy grant. DVRPC is aiming to improve and standardize solar practices in Greater Philadelphia to manage the "soft costs" of solar, which can account for up to 40% of installation costs. DVRCP will work with businesses, residents and municipalities on this initiative. <http://www.dvrpc.org/Newsletters/DVRPCNews/2013/December/>
3. *The Wow! in Your Garden*, a presentation at the Radnor Library, will take place Thursday, March 6, 6:30pm. It features Michael Petrie, winner of Best in Show for Landscape Design at the 2013 Philadelphia Flower Show. Co-sponsored by Community Garden Club at Wayne. <http://www.radnorlibrary.org/electronic-resources/upcoming-programs-for-adults/attachment/wow-in-your-garden/>

4. 2014 Tri-state sustainability Symposium at Temple Performing Arts Center in Philadelphia. This was mentioned on the Green Building Delaware County website. The symposium will address best practices and raise challenging questions about sustainability. Over 800 attendees are expected, including representatives from LEED, commercial development, and other groups. This will take place March 7 from 8:00am to 4:30pm. There will be lots of speakers and panels.
<http://dvgbc.org/TRISTATESS>
5. The Green Treks website is announcing a screening of several documentary films including *Water Blues*, *Green Solutions*, a short film on Rain Water Bump-Outs, a device designed to help with rain water and traffic management at the same time.
<http://www.greentreks.tv/>

WORKGROUP REPORTS AND DISCUSSION

A. Radnor Green Team

Ms. Mattison gave an update on the Radnor Green Team, which met on Feb. 20. She and Mr. Walker attended.

There was no news on self-funding green projects. No recent action on street/traffic light LED conversion has been taken; the committee sent some articles to Paul Bazik. Some follow up will be needed.

There was discussion of the effort to increase the household recycling rate. In other townships there are point systems to encourage recycling. Challenges remain around determining what proportion of material that is picked up is actually recyclable. Co-mingling increases household participation but tends to reduce quality. It was suggested that the township try out a half-day Saturday yard waste drop-off for those not inclined to leave their yard waste at curbside on pickup days.

There was discussion about the Green Power purchasing initiative. More information is needed from the EAC on opportunities for purchasing green power and the constraints that the Township faces, such as the need to lock in rates for a period of time and the need to contain costs. Mr. Elliot provided a further update. He is working with Ben Cooper as liaison and suggests the EAC do some research to identify options. The current goal is to ensure understanding of what EAC is trying to help with. Currently there are 28 different accounts with PECO. Is there an ability to cherry pick a couple of these accounts to convert to something green? The Township is open to a possible RFP or RFI. The EAC can help with that process. Some EAC members wondered whether we could get solar panels on top of the township building. It's the single biggest consumer of energy in the township.

Some additional points of discussion included the following.

Tree planting: the Township is going to receive free trees for giveaway.

Building lighting improvements: Melissa Conn is looking into any grants that may be available.

Recommissioning the Township building: this initiative is currently in limbo. The Senior Center is apparently not coming in.

Greening vehicle fleet. The Township has budgeted for a new vehicle. Mr. Walker suggested looking at a used hybrid in order to keep costs down.

Computers: There is some ongoing discussion about reducing the Township's carbon footprint by making future computer investments in either cloud computing or Energy Star certified computers.

Sustainable parks policy – no news.

Green Procurement policy: wrapped up last year. Melissa Conn and Ms. Poulin put it together.

B. Sustainability

No update was given.

C. Open Space

No update was given.

D. Audubon Radnor Bird Town

Ms. Poulin is working on a WREN grant. Looking for partners. Demonstration infiltration gardens. Will be educational in nature. Has 6-7 partners lined up. Looking for more. Partners can be those willing to help advertise, or physical help (installation – e.g. Boy Scouts). Not sure if money needed.

COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION/AWARENESS

Mr. Hilbert gave an update on his participation with the Wayne Elementary School Green Team. They are currently planning some Earth Day activities, including birdhouse painting and spring bird garden cleanup projects to take place in early April.

LIAISON REPORTS

Mr. Clark gave an update on activities at the Parks and Recreation department. It has been a busy month. Veterans' Park is being revamped. Regarding the Willows: the Conroy RFP process has been discontinued because discussions have reached an impasse. The Township administration is now recommending the mansion be torn down. Nothing is determined yet. The Township will open new RFP with more guidelines next. A new capital plan for the parks is out now. Clem Macrone will receive a \$175k revamp that will include a new comfort station. The Garrett Hill organization is taking charge. Enke Park: moving batting cages and playground over away from marsh area. Mr. Hilbert asked whether it might be possible to include some new rain gardens or similar features in conjunction with new comfort stations. Last year at Cowan Park this was done using donated flowers and labor. Petrie Park and Ithan Valley Park will receive some minor

improvements. The Township is thinking of putting cell phone towers in 3 parks: Ithan Valley (ATT), the Willows near Skunk Hollow, and Fenimore Woods. They will be designed to look like trees. ATT is coming in to talk to the Township. This should generate about a \$3m lease over several years for Parks and Recreation. The EAC can submit questions via Mr. Clark. EAC members asked whether ATT might consider adding stormwater mitigation, rain gardens, or other features.

The Open Space committee is looking at trail connections. The Ardrossan plan has some bearing, and the committee will share relevant information.

Mr. Kunda circulated a draft of the MUST ordinance at the last EAC meeting. He provided an update, noting that the draft recently went to the commissioners. The Commissioners voted to exclude part of the lot that BioMed owns, several acres that are within the Blue Route's right of way, reducing the buildable density of the lot substantially.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Liesel Schwarz, Villanova University's Manager of Sustainability, gave an update on the University's sustainability activities over the past year. There is a new website with lots of information at <http://www1.villanova.edu/villanova/sustainability.html>.

Villanova has adopted the STARS rating system, which was developed by a national organization for sustainability in higher education. STARS addresses not just environmental but academic opportunities, diversity, endowment, etc. An initial assessment should be complete by Earth Day. Over the longer term, they are engaged in creating a comprehensive sustainability plan. They currently have a carbon emissions plan and have added another LEED certified building – Flanagan Hall, a dormitory with a geothermal heating system. They are also creating an "EcoRep" team as a forum for student athletes to share and promote sustainability ideas and suggestions. Finally, the University, along with other peer institutions such as Georgetown University, has endorsed St. Francis' Pledge, an effort to bring Catholic social teaching and sustainability together.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew Holtman