

**RADNOR TOWNSHIP  
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**MINUTES**

The April meeting of the Radnor Township Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) was called to Order by Chairperson Josh Hilbert at 6:00 P.M. on April 25, 2013, at the Radnor Township Municipal Building, Radnorshire Room, 301 Iven Avenue, Wayne, Pennsylvania.

Those present were:            Josh Hilbert, Chairperson  
   Sloan Walker, Vice Chairperson  
   Stephen Elliot  
   Sally Mattison  
   Dan Meier

Those not present were:     Anne Poulin, Secretary  
   Robin Mann  
   Luke Clark, Parks and Recreation Representative  
   Kelly Doyle, Board of Health Representative

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**APPROVAL OF MARCH 28 2013 MINUTES**

On motion made and seconded, the minutes of the March 28, 2013, EAC meeting were unanimously approved.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Hilbert made the following announcements:

1. Radnor Township, in partnership with the Community Garden Club at Wayne, is sponsoring their annual "Township Manager's Beautification Award" program. This year's program begins April 1, 2013, with nominations being accepted until September 15, 2013.

The program is intended to recognize residents and businesses who have taken exceptional care of their homes and businesses and whose extra effort into the exterior beautification of their property is well evidenced. All Radnor Township residents and businesses are eligible to participate. Nominations can be called in or emailed in to the Office of the Township Manager at [rzienkowski@radnor.org](mailto:rzienkowski@radnor.org).

2. DVGBC's 2013 Green Building Celebration will take place on Thursday May 2, from 6-9pm at The World Cafe Live in Philadelphia. The night of networking with the green building community will feature food, drink, and music, and will look toward Greenbuild 2013 in Philadelphia this coming November. More information and tickets are available at <http://www.dvgbc.org/AGBC2013>.
3. The Pennsylvania Environment Ride, benefiting the Pennsylvania Environmental Council, will take place on May 17-19. Riders will go on a 3-day, 160 mile ride from the

Susquehanna River to the Schuylkill, and will commit to raising funds to support PEC's trail and greenway work. Information and registration is at [www.environmentride.org](http://www.environmentride.org).

4. Radnor Electronics Recycling Day will take place on June 15, 2013, from 9am to 1pm at the Willows. "Anything with a Plug" can be recycled or properly disposed. All data media will be destroyed or wiped. The EAC reminds you that desktop computers, laptop computers, computer monitors, computer peripherals, televisions, and any components of such devices may not be disposed in the municipal waste stream.

## **WORKGROUP REPORTS AND DISCUSSION**

### **A. Radnor Green Team**

Mr. Hilbert reported that he will make contact with his partners on Streetlight LED Conversion and Traffic Signal LED Conversion (Action Items 3 and 4) in the near future.

Mr. Hilbert also reported that Robin Mann has made contact with her partners on Green Power Purchasing (Action Item 7).

Ms. Mattison reported that she had recently met with her partners on Building Lighting Improvements and Recommissioning Township Buildings (Action Items 9 and 10). The partners explained what has been done so far and answered questions about how the process would go forward. It was agreed that next steps would wait until approximately mid-June, when more information will be available about the future use of certain township-owned buildings that might be subject to these Action Items.

Mr. Walker reported that he has met with his partners on Greening of the Township Vehicle Fleet (Action Item 11). The most obvious way to start greening the fleet is by replacing some of the administrative vehicles with cleaner vehicles such as hybrids. Steve Norcini is working on identifying possible candidates for replacement and the related costs, and Mr. Walker is looking into potential grants. Another possible step would be driver training to improve the mileage on very low mileage vehicles such as trash trucks. The group will meet again in a couple of weeks to decide on the best candidates for replacement.

Mr. Hilbert recommended that a 6<sup>th</sup> EAC/Green Team subgroup be formed in the near future to work on a Sustainable Parks Policy, which is Action Item 14 in the Greenhouse Gas Action Plan. Getting to work on this Action Item could lead to reduced mowing, and incorporation of the EAC's recommendations regarding the use of herbicides, fungicides and pesticides in township parks, as well as the use of habitat management to address the problem of Canada geese at the Willows (which was addressed at a recent Board of Commissioners meeting). Mr. Meier and Mr. Elliot will work on this recommendation and report at the next EAC meeting.

### **B. Sustainability**

Mr. Walker reported that he and Mr. Hilbert had gone to the Board of Commissioners regarding the proposed "Resolution in Support of a Tax Holiday for WaterSense and Energy Star Products in Pennsylvania." The Board of Commissioners, and the board of the Radnor Conservancy, both support the proposal. Next, Mr. Walker and Mr. Hilbert will invite other EACs to support the proposed resolution, and Mr. Walker will approach the Pennsylvania Retailers Association for support. It is hoped that a state legislator will support the idea as well.

WaterSense Tip of the Month: “Sprinkler Spruce-Up” -- Mr. Walker reported that approximately ½ of water used outdoors is wasted from inefficient watering methods and systems. To address this, use automatically timed irrigation systems; check for clogged, missing or broken sprinkler heads and for leaks, especially at connection points; direct the water onto the landscape and away from surfaces such as driveways; and update your system’s schedule with the seasons. More information is available at [http://www.epa.gov/watersense/outdoor/watering\\_tips.html#tabs-1](http://www.epa.gov/watersense/outdoor/watering_tips.html#tabs-1).

## **COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION/AWARENESS**

### **A. Wayne Elementary School**

Mr. Hilbert reported that he is a member of a green subgroup of the Wayne Elementary School PTO. The subgroup had two recent projects:

**Bird House Painting:** Mr. Hilbert developed a bird house painting program for Earth Day. Thirty-six students painted nearly 50 bird houses. Since the event was so successful, Mr. Hilbert met with the Radnor Bird Town group so that they could expand this event idea to other groups.

**Lunchtime Recycling:** Over a period of 5 days, 10 adult volunteers worked on a lunchtime recycling project to educate the students and janitorial staff about recycling. The amount of lunchtime items recycled tripled as a result of the project. The project will be repeated twice a year in the future, and Mr. Hilbert will see if Ithan and Radnor Elementary Schools are interested in having similar programs. Unfortunately, the school district’s private recycling contractor only accepts plastics #1 and 2. Discussion ensued about asking the school district to look for a contractor who will accept more types of plastic, and about the possibility of developing a recycling poster for use in the school lunchrooms.

### **B. Wheels of Wayne**

Mr. Walker reported that the Wheels of Wayne car show on April 21<sup>st</sup> was a fun and well-organized event that brought out over 50 cars and hundreds or even thousands of people and was good for local businesses. This will hopefully become an annual car event. Mr. Walker won the trophy for best green car; he was the only entry in that category and hopes not to win next year.

### **C. Green Restaurant News**

Mr. Walker reported that the Dine Green restaurant search engine rates restaurants on seven environmental and related categories. There is one 2-star rated restaurant in our community, Vge Café in Bryn Mawr; there is a 3-star rated restaurant at Longwood Gardens, and another 3-star restaurant in Philadelphia. Details are at [http://dinegreen.com/customers/restaurant\\_guide2.asp?display=Cuisine&rest\\_state=PA&restMetro=&rating=](http://dinegreen.com/customers/restaurant_guide2.asp?display=Cuisine&rest_state=PA&restMetro=&rating=).

## **LIAISON REPORTS**

There were no liaison reports this month.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. Meier reported that a rain garden was installed in Cowan Park on April 21<sup>st</sup>. Members of the Friends of Cowan Park, Radnor Bird Town, and the EAC participated. Mr. Meier had worked with Steve Norcini and with Chanticleer to prepare for the event; Chanticleer donated plant plugs. Mr. Meier showed pictures of the planting day. He will water the garden weekly in the first year. The plantings were selected to bloom throughout summer and fall and to provide shelter for birds in winter. In March the plants will be cut down, and then will grow back. The gutters on the restroom building will drain into the rain garden. Mr. Meier remarked that residents can create smaller (e.g., 2' x 2') rain gardens at the bottom of their own downspouts, and that the gardens can be as little as 6" deep, as compared to two or three feet deep at Cowan Park. Discussion ensued about calling for a rain garden by each park restroom as part of a Sustainable Parks Policy. Photos and a list of plant species from the Cowan Park rain garden will be posted on the EAC page of the township website.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business.

### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There was no 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,

Sally Mattison