

**RADNOR TOWNSHIP  
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**MINUTES**

The March meeting of the Radnor Township Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) was called to Order by Chairperson Josh Hilbert at 6:00 P.M. on March 26, 2015, at the Radnor Township Municipal Building, Administration Conference Room, 301 Iven Avenue, Wayne, Pennsylvania.

Those present were:     Josh Hilbert, Chairperson  
                              Sally Mattison  
                              Daniel Meier  
                              Anne Poulin  
                              Skip Kunda, Planning Commission Representative  
                              Luke Clark, Parks and Recreation Representative

Those not present were: Matthew Holtman  
                                  Sloan Walker, Vice Chairperson  
                                  Stephen Elliot

**CALL TO ORDER**

**APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 2015 MINUTES**

On motion made and seconded, the minutes of the February 2015, EAC meeting were unanimously approved.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Susan Stern of the Planning Commission appeared before the EAC to raise the issue of smoking in multi-unit buildings. She is concerned about exposing residents to the hazards of secondhand smoke. She also raised a concern about third-hand smoke. She will present the same issue to the Board of Health. EAC members agreed that the issue is an important one, but concluded that it falls within the jurisdiction of the BOH rather than the EAC.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Hilbert made the following announcements:

1.       Radnor will hold an electronics recycling event, Anything with a Plug, on May 2, 2015, at the Township Building starting at 9:00 a.m. and running all day. For more information, visit <http://www.radnor.com/egov/apps/events/>.
  
2.       The annual Tree Giveaway sponsored by the Radnor Conservancy and the Township will be held April 25 at the Township Building. For more information, visit <http://www.radnorconservancy.org/>.

Ms. Mattison made the following announcements:

1. Chester County Citizens for Climate Protection are presenting a talk by Judy Wicks of the White Dog on Local Economies & Socially Responsible Businesses. The talk will be presented on Monday, April 6th, 2015, at West Chester University Ware Recital Hall, Swope Music Building 817 S. High Street, at 6:00 p.m. For more information, visit [chescocooler.org/online/](http://chescocooler.org/online/).
2. The Delaware Valley Green Building Council will hold the Philly Coalition Mayoral Forum on Wed, 4/08/2015 from 7:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. at the National Museum of American Jewish History, 101 South Independence Mall East, Philadelphia. For more information, visit <http://dvgbc.org/policyadvocacy/event/build-philly-coalition-mayoral-forum>.
3. DVGBC is also sponsoring The Biophilic Cities Project: Growing beyond Green in Philadelphia to be held Thursday, 4/16/2015 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Free Library of Philadelphia, Central Branch, 1901 Vine Street, Philadelphia. For more information, visit [dvgbc.org](http://dvgbc.org).

## **WORKGROUP REPORTS AND DISCUSSION**

The group discussed the possible need to refocus the priorities of the EAC and reconstitute the Work Groups to reflect those priorities. The Green Team continues to be an important agenda item to assess progress on the Township's GHG Reduction Plan, but other groups, such as WREN and open space either have wound down or will shortly. Possible areas of focus include:

- Sustainable parks: Concern has been expressed that the farming practices at Ardrossan are not organic and that herbicides and pesticides will impact Radnor's waterways and wildlife. It was pointed out that the Township has not generally used organic practices, although the Township is currently switching to an organic herbicide. Also, reduced mowing and meadowization could have a positive impact on GHG emissions and also on stormwater. Partnering with the Stormwater Management Advisory Committee.
- Improved habitat at the Municipal Building: John Rogers drew up a plan for Radnor Birdtown using native plants that would improve the habitat and reduce maintenance. The Township could be encouraged to implement aspects of that plan.
- Ordinances to encourage alternate energy sources.

### A. Radnor Green Team

The BOC approved the wind power purchase agreement on Monday.

## **COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION/AWARENESS**

Mr. Hilbert that the Radnor Schools are planning events for Earth Day. He is running a birdhouse workshop. In addition, the schools are working on recycling education.

## **LIAISON REPORTS**

A. Planning Commission

Mr. Kunda reported that the Planning Commission was holding a meeting on the same evening to address the Villanova University proposal. The April meeting will focus on Biomed.

B. Board of Health

There was no report.

C. Parks and Recreation

Mr. Clark discussed the work of the Parks and Recreation Committee. He reported that the Township decided not to permit cell phone towers to be installed in township parks. Less intrusive technology is likely to be explored.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. Hilbert reported that the Clean Energy Plan Resolution that Mark Knight had proposed to the EAC is moving ahead. Commissioner Higgins commented on the draft and Mr. Knight is now revising the resolution. Ms. Mattison mentioned that there is a proposal floating in Washington DC to permit states to avoid meeting expectations under the Clean Energy Plans, so the resolution may be timely.

Ms. Mattison raised concerns that artificial turf acts as a heat island and that it kills the microbial life under the field. She had done research to determine the extent of the problem. Radnor does not use water to cool its artificial turf, but questions were raised concerning how Radnor cleans the turf. Mr. Hilbert will explore the Township practices and will also look back to see how the EAC conclusion on the issue of artificial turf was phrased.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Meier reported that he attended the last meeting of the Stormwater Management Advisory Committee. He will continue to act as an informal liaison.

**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

**Resolution in Support of Ordinance Establishing a User Fee for Stormwater Collection and Management**

Whereas, Radnor Township (“Radnor”) has constructed and maintains a system of sewers, drains, basins, inlets, outfalls and other infrastructure to collect and manage stormwater; and

Whereas, the Radnor Environmental Advisory Council (the “EAC”) finds that excess stormwater volume can cause flooding and can threaten public health, safety and the environment through erosion; and

Whereas, Pennsylvania has experienced a 52% percent increase in the frequency of extreme rainstorms and snowstorms from 1948 to 2011;<sup>1</sup> and the amount of precipitation released by the largest annual storms in Pennsylvania increased by 23 percent in the same period;<sup>2</sup>

Whereas, a variety of improvements to Radnor’s stormwater system, including non-structural efforts is necessary to reduce the extent and frequency of flooding; and

Whereas, a proposed ordinance establishing a user fee dedicated to stormwater management (the “Proposed Stormwater Fee Ordinance”) would call on all Radnor landowners, including non-profit institutions, to contribute to improving our stormwater system;

Now, therefore, the EAC finds that the Proposed Stormwater Fee Ordinance as advertised on September 24, 2013, is a fair and equitable approach to addressing a significant public safety and environmental issue.

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<sup>1</sup> PennEnvironment Research & Policy Center, “When It Rains, It Pours”, Summer 2012 at App. 35

<sup>2</sup> Id at App. 37