

## **WARRINGTON TOWNSHP ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES TO MARCH 5, 2008 MEETING**

The meeting started at 7:33 PM followed by Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Those in attendance were the following EAC members: Todd Baratz, Becky Kiefer, Fred Suffian, Ivy Ross, Fraser Wall, Dave Weaver, Nick and Adele Weremeychik and Paul Gdanski, Director of Public Works. Also in attendance was Barbara Livrone, Recording Secretary for the WTEAC.

**Public Comment** – None.

#### **Approval of the February 6, 2008 Minutes**

Minutes from the February 6, 2008 were approved by Mr. Baratz and seconded by Mr. Weremeychik. All were in favor.

#### **Bucks Beautiful Garden Fair – March 21 and 22, 2008**

The EAC booth is fully staffed for both days at the Garden Fair.

Mrs. Kiefer reported that a master gardener and a composter will be at Bucks Beautiful and will have their own booth.

Mrs. Ross attended the Exhibitors Meeting on February 29, 2008. She received four (4) signs to advertise the event. Two signs will be placed at the township building and two will be placed at the water & sewer department. It was decided to rent another table for five dollars (\$5.00). The EAC booth will be located in the lower gym next to the flower plant demonstration. Mrs. Ross reported on the passes, parking area, time to set up, sizes of tables and booth, and to observe rules of Delaware Valley College.

Mr. Suffian made a banner for the booth.

Following are the exhibits that will be presented at the booth: Rain Garden, Clean Energy, Smart Power's Clean Energy, and sign up forms for Clean Energy. In addition, rain garden, rain barrels and watershed brochures will be handed out.

A contributor sign will be made for the fair. The following companies have made a donation to the fair: Panera Bread (donating one loaf of bread per month for one year – valued at \$60.00); Karaoke and Beyond; Eastern Mountain Sports (\$25.00 gift card); Staples (\$25.00 gift card) and Starbucks (gift basket).

The contributors will also be listed on the website. Additionally, the contributor sign can be placed at the township building listing and advertising the businesses.

It was discussed to list the businesses on the township's television channels.

Mr. Suffian reported it was agreed at the last meeting each person who signed up for clean energy would receive a fifteen dollar (\$15.00) gift card because the township is getting paid back twenty dollars. In addition to the gift card, the sign-up would receive a CFL. If the person signs up for PECO, the township receives twenty dollars. If they sign up for Energy Cooperative, the township does not receive any monies. It was decided to mail the person the fifteen dollar (\$15.00) gift card and to enter the person into a raffle. The companies who made a donation will be the raffle prizes. These prizes could also be entered into the Earth Day event. The fifteen dollar gift cards could come from Wegmans, Target and Borders and will ask the person which gift card they would like to receive.

Mrs. Weremeychik suggested making a sign advertising Earth Day and list the boy scout troops that are already signed up to participate.

Mrs. Ross reported Bucks Beautiful is a non profit organization which has a garden grant program. Gardens must be visible from the road and the goal is to beautify the county with annuals and perennials that continue to show through the growing season. The grant award is a 50/50 cash match up to a maximum of \$2,000 per host each year.

#### **Adopt-A-Road Program Update**

The Adopt-a-Road Program was adopted at the February 19, 2008 Board of Supervisors meeting.

The supervisors questioned the age requirement that the participants must be at least 16 years of age. The program was mirrored from Upper Makefield Township which used the PennDOT's program. According to PennDOT, it is a liability issue. The township is going to check with its solicitor regarding the liability.

Until a decision is made by the solicitor if a group is under the age of 16 and wants to participate in the program, a permission slip could be signed by the parent waiving the liability issue.

Mr. Suffian reported Karaoke and Beyond will adopt a portion of Folly Road within Warrington Township. The application will be approved by the EAC and then will be reported to the Board of Supervisors at one of their meetings.

Signs will be made and purchased advertising the groups adopting a road and installed by Earth Day.

Public Works Department has a sign post driver. The signs can be purchased by Garden State Highway Products, Inc. Two signs will be placed on one post similar to PennDOT's sign signifying "Warrington Adopt-A-Road" on the one sign and the second sign will be for the adoptive organization.

A motion was made by Mr. Wall to allocate four hundred dollars (\$400.00) to purchase Adopt-A-Road signs. The motion was seconded by Mr. Weaver. All were in favor.

### **Clean Energy Outreach Plan Update**

Mr. Suffian noted that Native Energy has reached the maximum energy credits and the reserve is left for townships.

The solar energy program is coming to the end by May. The EAC is hopefully that the township will receive its panel. The location where to place the solar panel will be discussed at a future meeting.

### **Little Neshaminy Creek Watershed Grant (AKA Growing Greener Grant)**

Maryann from State Representative Kathy Watson called to report the township was granted \$100,000 in state money for the Little Neshaminy Creek Watershed project. A letter will be forthcoming to the township. Mr. Suffian stated the township requested \$128,240.00 and we were matching it with \$42,349.00 thus making a total project cost of \$170,589.00. This was for three rain gardens and the match was for the rain garden already built for a value of \$35,000. \$10,000 was requested for three rain gardens on private properties. In addition, a match for educational workshops, urban nutrient management and a commitment was made by the Penn State Cooperative Extension Service. Also match with storm drain markers and volunteers. A large item that is not a match are for two storm water drain retrofits, one which is a wet retrofit and the other is a dry retrofit. The wet retrofit is a wetland and a dry retrofit is a naturalized basin. The construction portion would be from the townships public works department which the township could receive money to help reimburse salaries. Engineering fees would be included and the EAC would use Land Studies, Inc., which is well versed in DEP language.

The grant money is for ten rain barrels, three rain gardens, two detention basins, storm drain markings and monitoring. The time frame for the grant is two (2) years.

Mrs. Ross suggested an eagle scout could check, record and log the basins water that exists. This could determine what plants could be planted in the basin.

The basin at the township is a dry basin and would be visible as a natural basin. Planting wildflowers would help to reduce maintenance costs.

A chart will be prepared for what was eliminated, the value for the design and engineering. Mrs. Kiefer will present this information at the next supervisors meeting.

Mrs. Kiefer noted that successful grants lead to more grant monies. It is imperative to maintain accurate records and show what has been accomplished.

## **Street Tree Inventory Update**

Mr. Suffian reported the City Green software package purchased by the township has been received. Mr. Suffian is going to print out maps delineating the trees and inventory the trees. The software package has a grow out analysis which indicates how much these trees are suppose to grow within the next 10-15 years, give pollutant reduction values from an air pollutant and storm water runoff standpoint. Also providing an inventory of the health of the trees and plant trees where needed.

## **Compact Fluorescent Light (CFL) Disposal Update**

Mr. Gdanski spoke to a refuse company regarding the disposal of CFL's and it will cost one hundred dollars (\$100.00) to get rid of a carton of CFL's which holds 25 screw in or 50 plug in. Mr. Suffian reported there maybe a possibility Home Deport and/or Lowes providing a recycling bin for the CFL's .

## **Grant Proposals Update**

### WREN Grant

Mr. Suffian received a proposal to submit a grant through the League of Women's Voters called the WREN grant (Water Resources Education Network). The purpose is to promote Healthy Yards, include rain garden and barrel and the naturalization of a detention basin. This grant application will be presented to the Board of Supervisors on March 25<sup>th</sup>. The deadline to apply to the League of Women's Voters is April 3. The amount requested is \$5000 with a match of in-kind services approximately 20-25%. The grant award period is July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009.

### Growing Greener II Grant

The Little Neshaminy buffer area is for the next Growing Greener II grant. Land Studies, Inc. is working on this grant and the tentative application date is May 2008. This is for stabilizing the stream channels at the Fairways Golf Course which leads into the Little Neshaminy.

## **Storm Drain Labeling Update**

Six hundred (600) storm drain labels are currently on hand. Maps will be available to the scouts to perform the labeling at Earth Day. There are approximately twenty safety vests that came with the labels.

Mr. Baratz made a motion to allocate five hundred dollars (\$500.00) to purchase safety vests and Mr. Wall seconded the motion. All were in favor.

## **Earth Day 2008**

The Earth Day projects are as follows:

- Storm drain labeling
- Building rain barrels
- Locating Detention Basin using a GPS
- Street Tree Identification

A motion was made by Mr. Baratz to purchase Earth Day bracelets or something similar at One Dollar (\$1.00) each for all the participants of Earth Day. The bracelets are imprinted with "I love the Earth." Mr. Wall seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Mr. Suffian was unable to attend the Girl Scout coordinators meeting in February. The next meeting is March 18<sup>th</sup> and Mr. Suffian asked if someone would be able to attend to find out if the individual troops are able to participate at Earth Day.

Rain Barrels – Mr. Suffian reported commercial rain barrels are approximately Eighty Dollars (\$80.00) each. He would like to purchase fifty five gallon drums and build rain barrels for an Earth Day project. The purchase of the drums plus the kit would cost approximately Forty Dollars (\$40.00) each. A handout called "How to Build and Install a Rain Barrel" was distributed. The rain barrels could be part of the Healthy Yards Program and to be used as a give away to communities who are in need. The money could come from the grant money or has been allocated in the budget. Mrs. Kiefer suggested hosting an educational program and the resident could take home a rain barrel.

The rain barrels will be made at Earth Day.

A motion was made by Mr. Weaver to purchase twenty (20) rain barrels at a cost of Twenty Dollars each plus Twenty Dollars for each kit. ( $\$20 + \$20 = \$40$  each). The grand total is Eight Hundred Dollars (\$800.00). The motion was seconded by Mrs. Weremeychik and all were in favor.

### **Other Business**

April 29, 2008 is the date set for the Composting Program hosted at the township building by Penn State Cooperative Extension Service.

The EPA is designing a rain garden behind Jamison Elementary School. The school had contacted Warrington's EAC to promote the rain garden. Mrs. Kiefer suggested contacting Victory Gardens and/or Pileggi Landscaping for them to donate plants. In recognition for their donation to purchase a small plaque listing their name and placing it in the garden.

## **Adjournment**

A motion was made by Mr. Wall and seconded by Mrs. Ross to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor. The meeting ended at 10:02 PM.