



**Montgomery Township
Environmental Advisory Committee
January 26, 2012
6:30pm**

The monthly meeting of the Montgomery Township Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) was held on January 26, 2012 in the Montgomery Township Municipal Building. The members of the EAC in attendance included: Beth Staab, Jeff Gibbons, Vere Archibald, Barry Baker, Jeanine Hurry, and Terry Wilson. Also in attendance were Bruce Shoupe, Director of Planning and Zoning and Kate Grubb, Management Analyst.

I. Pledge of Allegiance and Call to Order

The Regular Meeting was called to order at 6:45 pm.

II. Reorganization

Beth Staab entertained nominations for Committee Chair. Jeanine Hurry nominated Beth Staab as Committee Chair and Jeff Gibbons seconded the nomination. The nomination passed 6-0. Beth Staab nominated Jeff Gibbons as Vice-Chair and Jeanine Hurry seconded the nomination. The nomination passed 6-0.

Beth Staab welcomed new committee member Vere Archibald to the meeting and the committee and staff members present introduced themselves.

III. Approval of Minutes – December 6, 2011

Jeanine Hurry made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from December 6, 2011 and Barry Baker seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0.

IV. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

V. Old Business

New EAC Group Photo

The EAC posed for a new group photo to be used on the EAC webpage and the volunteer wall in the Township Building.

Sustainability Audit – Guest Speaker Bradley Flamm, Temple University

Beth Staab introduced Bradley Flamm to the Committee. Bradley is with Temple University's Center for Sustainable Community Center and was one of three authors to work on the audit in 2009. Beth provided a recap of that study to the Committee.

Vere Archibald asked the committee what, if anything, initiated the committee to perform such a study. Jeff Gibbons stated the EAC had a brainstorming session and one of the ideas presented was to perform an audit. Some of the neighboring townships recently performed an audit and used Temple University through its Center for Sustainable Communities.

Beth Staab added that the state provided the funding to pay for the audit and the software. There has been a lot of movement between township staff and committee members and now the EAC would like to make updating the audit a priority.

Jeanine Hurry followed that the goals of the EAC and some of its initiatives were a direct result from the study.

Bradley Flamm noted that there were some questions the committee would need to address before updating the audit. First, would the committee want to update all 4 sections of the audit: GHG emissions, Solid Waste, Water and Wastewater, or just GHG emissions? Second, if the committee chooses to just update the GHG emissions, would the committee target just the municipality (which contributes only 1%) or the municipality and the larger community (residents, industry and business owners)?

Bradley provided a data disc with all of the spreadsheets and data collected in the 2009 audit along with additional notes. Bradley recommended that the best year to use as the updated year would be 2010 since the base year was 2005. One benefit in using 2010 is that DVRPC is updating their regional GHG emissions with 2010 data. DVRPC's data would help the committee gather data regarding the larger community.

Jeff Gibbons stated that maybe the committee should target the data that will be the easiest to retrieve. The committee can take a broader scope for 2010 and then become more specific in 2011 for the township-related data.

Bradley Flamm provided a helpful tip that acquiring the fine details for GHG emissions isn't necessary and that concentrating on electricity, natural gas, and gasoline and diesel fuel would yield 90% of emissions. Bradley provided the committee a contact for DVRPC, Robert Graff, 215-238-2826 or his associate Liz Compitello. Robert and Liz have resources on the implementation side, especially with the Circuit Rider Program, which provides technical assistance for townships that are looking to reduce emissions.

Bradley Flamm informed the committee that the CACP software is quite buggy and in its current state, is not going to be functional. Since the software has received updates, it will not be able to run the earlier version and show the 2005 base year data. He recommended that the committee or staff contact ICLEI to see if (1) The 2005 data would need to be re-entered (go to backup disc) or (2) if there was a way to convert data and make it compatible with the updated software. The data file is too old for the updated CACP software.

Bradley recommended for the committee to (1) choose the scope of update, (2) contact ICLEI and then (3) contact Robert Graff and his associate Liz Compitello. An intern from

Temple University could provide assistance and students are always looking for opportunities like this for the summer. Should the EAC be interested in working with an intern, Bradley would be happy to put the EAC in contact with someone at the University. He recommended that the EAC think beyond the data and really look at what the township and committee would wish to target to lower GHG emissions. What does the EAC want to accomplish? He stressed not to get bogged down with the data.

Kate Grubb stated that she would work with Rich to contact ICLEI about making the CACP software functional.

Jeanine Hurry noted that solid waste, particularly trash & recycling, has made great strides since the last audit and that type of data can impact the larger community. Beth Staab added that composting is another area of solid waste that has changed since the audit of 2005. Barry Baker stated that the bigger picture is changing with the rest of the implementation. He asks the question, what has the township done as a role model and how has that impacted the community?

Jeff stated that since the audit of 2009 and data collection from 2005, PECO has initiated multiple energy programs and would be a good source of stories about the impact on residents regarding light bulbs, lighting solutions, saver solution, etc. Bruce Shoupe stated that he will reach out to Suzanne Ryan, government PECO representative.

Barry Baker asked Bradley what has worked well for other township. Bradley said that four other townships did a multi-municipal GHG emission reduction. He has also worked with a few townships in Bucks County. Additionally, Haverford Township has done quite a bit and Swarthmore is the number one borough in the country regarding community outreach and volunteer groups.

Beth Staab mentioned that she has worked with Bridle Path Elementary and the NP Alliance Program. This program trains school representatives and they execute projects like “last out, lights out,” shutting shades in the afternoon, etc. This has saved the elementary school \$36,000 in about 6 months. Jeanine Hurry added that Gwyn Nor Elementary saved about \$4,000 in 4 months. This program is targeting both new and old schools for comparisons. The goal is to cut energy costs 20-22% over the 2-year program and to establish new healthy habits.

Beth Staab stated mentioned the idea of a “power down” for Earth Day at the elementary school where there will not be a heat up lunch and the teachers will try not to use any lights, etc.

VI. Other Business

Wissahickon Watershed Report

This topic will be discussed at the next meeting, February 28, 2012.

Earth Day 4/21/2012

Jeanine Hurry recommended an idea for Earth Day that teaches about stormwater management. The activity is such that you take a plastic soda bottle and fill it with dirt and rocks. Then, you would pour dirty water in the bottle and turn the bottle upside down. The rocks and dirt will act as filter to clean the dirty water. This could also relate to the benefits of rain gardens in helping to manage stormwater.

Beth Staab stated that she has been in contact with members of North Penn's Alliance's Green Schools Program and they would be interested in having a display or speaker at Earth Day. Additionally, Beth is trying to secure a representative from PennFuture to attend Earth Day and also shared with the committee a website called Energy Hog, www.energyhog.org, where it teaches kids the various energy-draining appliances within homes. The site allows for children to play an interactive game known as "hog buster" to find and defeat energy hogs. Lastly, the Pledge Wall was a success last year and it's worth considering as an activity for 2012.

Beth Staab suggested that the Perkiomen Watershed has a female scientist who works with endangered nesting sea turtles and brings out life size replica turtle shells. It would be great to have her attend Earth Day where the children could learn about the turtles particularly that the turtles mistake plastic bags in the ocean as jellyfish and when they go to eat the bags they die. Children may also try on the shells, as they are equipped with straps like a backpack, and have photos taken.

Single Trash Hauler Discussion

Jeanine Hurry presented the committee with trash information for the Township to consider an alternative to a *Single Trash Hauler* concept. Jeanine's recommendation is that the Township considers an ordinance that segments the township and allows for a limited number of neighborhood trash collection days per segment. This model comes from the city of Carmel. As an example, the township could be broken into 3 zones:

- Zone 1: M and W
- Zone 2: T and Th
- Zone 3: W and F

Not only would this allow residents to choose their own hauler, it would also allow haulers to self select out of neighborhoods that do not work with their schedule. If the haulers self opt out of neighborhoods, it reduces the garbage truck traffic, and wear and tear on our roads. Finally, Jeanine reported that this reduces the number of days we have trash on the curbs of our neighborhood streets, an ascetic improvement. She also provided the statistic that 1 trash truck = 5,500 cars on the pavement.

Next Meeting

The next EAC meeting will resume the advertised 4th Tuesday of the month and will be February 28, 2012 at 7:30pm. John Ferreira and Ashley Pompei with the Montgomery Mall will attend the next three EAC meetings to prepare for the collaborative Earth Day Event. March and April's meetings dates will be:

Tuesday, March 27th at 7:30pm

Tuesday, April 17th at 7:30pm (note: this is the 3rd Tuesday of the month)

VII. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 8:40pm. **The next meeting of the Environmental Advisory Committee will be February 28, 2012 at 7:30pm.**