



**Montgomery Township  
Environmental Advisory Committee  
October 25, 2011  
7:30pm**

The monthly meeting of the Montgomery Township Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) was held on October 25, 2011 in the Montgomery Township Municipal Building. The members of the EAC in attendance included: Beth Staab, Jeff Gibbons, John Griffies, and Terry Wilson. Also in attendance was Kate Grubb, Management Analyst.

**I. Pledge of Allegiance and Call to Order**

The Regular Meeting was called to order at 7:37 pm.

**II. Approval of Minutes – September 27, 2011**

Beth Staab made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from September 27, 2011 and Terry Wilson seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

**III. Public Comment**

There were no public comments.

**IV. New Business**

**America Recycles Day – November 15**

Beth Staab announced that November 15<sup>th</sup> is *America Recycles Day*, formerly known as “Keep America Beautiful”. This is a day dedicated to the promotion of recycling in the USA so that each of us can learn more about recycling, take a pledge to recycle, and hopefully encourage others to do the same thing. This day is supported by the industries that create products that can be recycled.

Beth Staab registered online with America Recycles Day and received a package containing a plethora of posters, pins, stickers, pencils, etc. promoting the event and any events throughout the year that promote recycling, or a venue that can bring information about recycling to the public, such as the 2012 Autumn Festival.

Jeff Gibbons asked if America Recycles Day was a national event, then why was he just recently hearing about it? Beth Staab replied that this program focuses on partnerships with major industries as opposed to targeting consumers thru abundant advertising and branding, as was done in the past with “Keep America Beautiful.”

Beth Staab asked to send out an E-News to include information on recycling at Montgomery Township, new recycling bins at Windlestrae Park, and CFL recycling at the Township building. Beth Staab will draft a text blurb and Kate Grubb will add the event and recycling information to the online calendar, EAC

Page and Earth Friendly Page on the Township website. Additionally, Kate Grubb will forward text to Stacy Crandell to be included in the next E-News.

Jeff Gibbons commented that he attended a presentation where Waste Management is trying to become more of a service company. Instead of picking up your waste they want to be your agent, and help reduce your waste to zero. Beth Staab commented that Evergreen is a new company in the area that provides waste pick up, recycling and composting services. Jeff Gibbons also noted UPS only makes right turns in an effort to save time and money.

Along the lines of UPS, Beth Staab recommended that the North Penn School District (NPSD) bus company look at the "right turn only" program. However, NPSD buses drivers seemed to have taken the term "right turn only" literally, and only made right turns even in neighborhoods where making a left turn would take less time and be cost effective.

## **V. Old Business**

### **2011 Autumn Festival Recap**

Beth Staab began the recap on a positive note and thought the event worked out very well. She felt there was good committee coverage & resources for the public and that the location of the table was ideal. The give-a-ways were well received and a lot of people took interest in the Forbes article about Energy Hogs. The demonstration with the lights was also very effective. Jeff Gibbons commented that the PECO representatives did not engage with the public or promote its program. John Griffies stated that for next year, it would be visually better to have a large display board for the laminated articles and literature. He added that the devices were "neat" and that next year the committee could incorporate additional interactive demonstrations.

### **Sustainability Audit**

Beth Staab began the discussion regarding updating Montgomery Township's Sustainability Audit. It was noted from the committee that updating the audit with the new round of data should be a priority project. Jeff Gibbons noted that after the last audit, there were recommendations of both minor and more labor/cost intensive projects that were never implemented. Beth Staab recommended that the committee re-read the audit report to serve as a refresher. Jeff Gibbons would provide a summary of the recommendations and baseline as he did when the initial audit was completed. Then, the committee will ensure that the software is functioning properly, the new data are gathered, and secure someone to enter the data. Should the software not work, Terry Wilson noted that there is a subscription on the software that should allow someone to troubleshoot and resolve the problems. Lastly, moving forward, the committee will help implement a process of gathering and entering data for future updates.

Kate Grubb will email/mail a copy of the Sustainability Audit to committee members.

### **Wissahickon Watershed Report**

Beth Staab commented that with Barry Baker and Jeanine Hurry absent, this topic will be discussed at the next meeting.

### **Holiday Lights**

Beth Staab stated that information regarding the cost of traditional lights vs. new LED lights would be beneficial to residents and sent out via an E-News blast on November 18<sup>th</sup>. This date will allow residents to receive the information before the Thanksgiving Holiday for early decorating. Jeff Gibbons volunteered to look for some statistics that compare energy used for about 6 hours-a-day for 6 weeks on a string of traditional lights versus LED lights.

### **Earth Day 2012**

Beth Staab stated that this topic would be tabled for the next meeting. Beth Staab also noted that she registered for Montgomery Township's EAC to host a "350.org" speaker for Earth Day 2012. 350.org is an organization run by Bill McKibbin where his whole premise is that we need to bring all of the climate scientists together to talk.

### **Vacant EAC Position**

Beth Staab commented that committee members should continue to spread the word about the vacant position. Jeff Gibbons stated that he may know of someone who might be interested and will reach out to her.

### **November/December Meetings**

Beth Staab recommended combining the November and December meetings into one meeting, Tuesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, to ensure a better turnout and a more productive meeting. Kate Grubb will send an email to the EAC about the combination meeting on 12/6/11 to ensure attendance.

## **VII. Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 8:32pm. **The next meeting of the Environmental Advisory Committee will be December 6, 2011 at 7:30pm.**