

The regular meeting of the **ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL** (EAC) for July 2020 was held tonight via Zoom Web-Conference. Members in attendance were: Chair Wendy Ankrom, Vice Chair Greta Bunin, Michael Freeman, and Sidney Kahn. Staff present: Alyson Elliott, Assistant Township Manager and Lauren Cartlidge, Special Projects Coordinator.

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Ankrom called the meeting to order at 7:39 p.m.

1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Upon motion of Mr. Kahn, seconded by Mr. Freeman, the meeting minutes for June 22, 2020 were unanimously approved by the EAC.

2. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Ms. Ankrom, Ms. Bunin, and Mr. Freeman attended the meeting of the Shade Tree Advisory Commission (STAC) on July 9, 2020 to join discussion on proposed Amendments to the Township's Subdivision & Land Development Ordinance (SALDO) by the STAC. EAC members reviewed the STAC recommendations, and are in agreement with the STAC's focus on preserving tree canopy. Mr. Freeman stated the importance of definitions such as "mature tree," "specimen tree," etc. in the SALDO for clarification purposes. However, Ms. Ankrom noted that "mature" is defined in one place in the SALDO as 3" dbh (diameter at breast height), and in another place as 6" dbh; this discrepancy was addressed in the STAC's proposed Amendments. Ms. Ankrom also noted that the STAC's recommendations regarding tree replacement pertain to the Limit of Disturbance (LOD) – the area of the proposed project, not of the owner's full property.

Recommendation to the Public Works Committee: Upon motion of Ms. Ankrom, seconded by Mr. Freeman, the EAC unanimously moved to support the recommendations of the Shade Tree Advisory Commission for the proposed Amendments to the Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance in efforts to maintain and preserve the tree canopy in the Township.

- B. Members of the EAC discussed the Sustainable Cheltenham website content and layout. The EAC stated the goals of the content should be to provide streamlined information and tools for residents/entities to make sustainable changes, as well as to showcase examples of sustainability in Cheltenham. Main points for updates include the following:

- Limit the submenu pages to 6-8 items (to include Solar Power, Electric Vehicles/Charging, Water & Energy Conservation, Stormwater, and Open Space)
- Shorten the description on the landing page and add key links for further information (e.g. Sustainability Plan, Sustainable Cheltenham Awards, Earth Day, EAC, Ready for 100, etc.)
- Relocate: Unwanted Medication Disposal sidebar (on landing page) to Public Works, Pool/Hot Tub Regulations to Planning and Zoning
- Remove: Helpful Resources, History of Sustainable Cheltenham, Sustainable Cheltenham Newsletter, Sustainability Pledge

Ms. Elliott mentioned that ease of maintenance should be considered when planning crosslinks to other Township pages, because staff in other departments (e.g. Planning & Zoning, etc.) may make changes that could result in broken links. Ms. Elliott also made members aware that an abundance of information on clean water initiatives is present due to reporting requirements for Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permits.

EAC members brainstormed how to better highlight the Sustainability section of the website and discussed using “Go Green,” but acknowledged that the phrase “Sustainable Cheltenham” is a known brand that came out of an EAC initiative.

Actions items: Mr. Freeman and Mr. Kahn will narrow down the strongest links for the energy efficiency subpage. Ms. Ankrom will reach out to Mr. Raisch regarding the subpage on trails. Ms. Ankrom will send finalized page content, graphics, and links compiled by EAC members to Ms. Elliott and Ms. Cartlidge to make the changes on the website.

3. **NEW BUSINESS**

4. **COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS**

A. Communications and Engagement

- 1) Arts in the Park has been cancelled for 2020. However, Ms. Ankrom suggested that the EAC should continue to organize a native plant photo contest to engage residents in local sustainability. In conjunction with this, the EAC will accept nominations for Sustainability Awards, with winners to be announced virtually. Ms. Ankrom will get in touch with Friends of High School Park, who expressed interest in coordinating on this initiative.

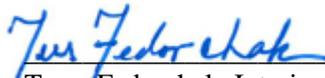
Photo submissions and award nominations may include businesses that do sustainable landscaping (either located in or active in more than one location in Cheltenham) or residential sustainable yard projects (pollinator/bird/native plant gardens, rain gardens, meadows), and must include a short description of the sustainable project.

Ms. Ankrom will create wording for advertisement to share on Township website and social media pages. Submissions should be sent to EACchair@cheltenham-township.org. Deadline will be September 15. Winners will receive an award certificate, and their photos will be shared on the EAC webpage and Township social media accounts.

- B. Water and Ecology – None.
- C. Energy and Emissions – None.
- D. Mobility and Healthy Living – None.
- E. Sustainable Development and Local Economy – None.
- F. Public Meetings – None.
- G. Staff Report – None.

5. **NEXT MEETING** – The next meeting of the EAC is scheduled for *Monday, August 17, 2020*. The meeting will likely take place on Zoom.

6. **ADJOURNMENT** – There being no further business, Ms. Ankrom adjourned the meeting at 9:40 p.m.



Terry Fedorchak, Interim Township Manager

Submitted by: Lauren Cartlidge, Special Projects Coordinator