

**Tredyffrin Township
Environmental Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes**

Date of Meeting: November 1, 2005

Members: Tom Rodriguez (Chair), Molly Duffy (Vice Chair), Bill Bellew, Sarah Ahmann-Kligman, Marian T. Toland

Board of Supervisors Liaison:

Planning Commission Liaison: Sean M. McCauley

Park and Recreation Board Liaison: John A. Edson

Township Staff: Mimi Gleason, John Farrell

Visitors: Pete Goodman, Barb Elliot

Tom Rodriguez (Chair) called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.

I. Approval of Minutes of the Last Meeting

The October minutes were approved.

II. Specimen Tree Reviews

- A. Bentley by Design, L.P. Preliminary/Final Subdivision Plan: Proposal to consolidate 2 lots on 2.5 acres and resubdivide into 3 lots at 24 Bodine Road in an R-1 Residence District (Application #03-05). [Plan prepared by Chester Valley Engineers, Inc., dated 4-18-05, revised 8-18-05.]**

Shawn Swanson (Bentley) and Brett McKay (landscape architect) presented the follow-up to October's presentation to answer questions about the number of trees to be removed. The design had taken previous suggestions into consideration, and utilized an 8% grade for the driveway to follow the contours of the land and provide as little grading as possible. Of 50 specimen trees on the property, 26 are to be preserved, including a 36" Oak Tree that was noted at the October meeting. These totals saved 6 more specimen trees than the previous design. Of the 154 trees that fall into the 6"-24" category, 60 will be preserved. Mr. Swanson and Mr. McKay's new plan did not show exactly which trees were to be removed, and Mr. Rodriguez asked them to use tracing paper to show this. After a brief interruption, Mr. Swanson and Mr. McKay justified why each specimen tree would be removed in the current design. After some discussion regarding the use of the driveway as a seepage pit for stormwater, Mr. McCauley and Mr. Bellew agreed that Mr. Swanson and Mr. McKay had done everything possible to comply with the demands of the EAC and Planning Commission. The EAC decided to recommend that the removal of the specimen trees be allowed.

III. EAC Annual Report of Accomplishments for 2005 and Strategic Plan for 2006

The EAC decided to continue with the format used since 2003 for summarizing annual accomplishments and planning for the next year. Bullet points would be drawn up by section heads, though longer narratives were decided to be used with discretion. Ms. Gleason noted that there is no deadline to have this document to the Board of Supervisors, and recommended that January as a goal date. The EAC decided to have individual sections turned in by the end of November, so that the EAC may review each in its December meeting, and present to the Board of Supervisors after that. Email communications were decided to be used for suggestions in the drafting process. Staff was designated to compile the document for the December meeting. Ms. Gleason volunteered to email the strategic plan to the group for guidance. Assignments are as

follows: Mr. Bellew is doing watersheds and stormwater management, Ms. Duffy is doing Trails, Ms. Bennett is doing public outreach, Ms. Ahmann-Kligman is doing environmental initiatives, and the remaining sections were to be taken from the previous years' minutes.

IV. Reports

1. Watersheds

Mr. Bellew circulated pictures of a former Brandolini subdivision that he believes cut more trees than were allowed by their approved plan. The pictures also included the location of an inlet that seemed out of place for collecting stormwater. Ms. Gleason said that if violations were found, the plans could be sent back to the Planning Commission, fine, or utilize several other methods to impede the construction process. She said that a staff engineer would travel to the site to verify if violations had been incurred.

Mr. Bellew also reported that the Boy Scouts completed the project on Trout Creek but that he would be asking for some additional issues to be reported on. Mr. McCauley suggested recognizing the Scouts' work with a plaque.

Mr. Bellew also noted that someone from the Staff or EAC should look into subscribing to Stormwater Magazine, information on which can be found at www.stormh2o.com.

Ms. Duffy presented a letter on behalf of Ms. Feinberg in which the EAC could announce their support for stormwater funding to the Board of Supervisors. Ms. Gleason recommended that the letter include more specifics regarding how much and where to spend the money. She also noted that the biggest impediment for the Township is sufficient staffing to undertake large-scale stormwater projects. Ms. Duffy said she would pass the comments on to Ms. Feinberg.

2. Trails Update

Ms. Duffy reported that Sidewalk, Trails and Paths Committee met earlier today. A plan was presented with great detail regarding trail links, with possible connections to the Chester Valley Trail. The Sidewalk Subcommittee conducted their interviews with other municipalities, and found that few easy answers exist when dealing with issues such as trees and utility poles. The group is hoping to get information together to lobby for some of next year's budget, but understands that they are early in the process. Pete Goodman suggested that Portland, Oregon may have some ideas for integrating legislation regarding trees, sidewalks, and stormwater.

3. Public Outreach

Ms. Gleason verified with Mr. Rodriguez that the multi-municipality meeting for November was cancelled. Mr. Rodriguez suggested that one person champion the project, and the issue will be placed on the December agenda.

4. Environmental Initiatives

Ms. Ahmann Kligman reported that she had met with a 6th Grade Teacher at Valley Forge Middle School who is interested in incorporating stream monitoring of Crabby Creek into his curriculum. Discussion followed based on the notion of having multiple collection points from which progress may be monitored when improvements are underway. Ms. Ahmann Kligman noted that the teacher believed he could secure the equipment, and Ms. Gleason said the Township may be able to procure more. It was suggested that Conestoga High School also be approached for this project, and that Stroud Water Research Center could be used to instruct all levels on the use of the equipment.

Mr. Rodriguez also inquired how much cost was being offset by the construction of solar panels on the roof of the Township Public Works Building. Ms. Gleason said that the original intention was for heating, but that the installation of the heating system itself was cost-prohibitive. She said she would look into the amount of money saved on electric bills. Ms. Gleason will also follow up on the educational component that was supposed to accompany the panels' installation.

5. Board of Supervisors Liaison

Ms. Gleason reported that the preliminary budget discussions will be on 21 November. There is also a hearing for HO District zoning amendments on Monday November 7.

6. Planning Commission Liaison

Mr. McCauley reported that the Hudson Project which the EAC had reviewed was being revisited by the Planning Commission.

7. Park & Recreation Board Liaison

Mr. Edson reported that Township fields had been closed after heavy rains, but Teegarden's field was destroyed from some groups still using the facilities.

Ms. Gleason added that the Westover Park Master Plan is almost complete. Design and engineering will not begin until the Township is notified about a DCNR Grant, and nothing is likely to happen until Spring.

8. Upcoming and Attended Conferences/Meetings

Mr. Rodriguez reported that the Pennsylvania Environmental Board Council will be meeting on 7 December.

Ms. Duffy reported that she attended the Penn Future Global Warming Conference on October 22nd. She spoke with someone there from Community Energy (based in Wayne, PA) who spoke about several communities, including Radnor Township, who had committed to buying wind energy. Ms. Duffy offered to meet with the contact, which the EAC supported. Ms. Gleason noted that any implementation this year can not bring additional cost.

VII. Other Matters

Mr. Rodriguez requested that the October Meeting Minutes be changed to reflect that some EAC members had attended the Villanova Stormwater Symposium, as well as the EAC-sponsored stormwater presentation by Wes Horner from Cahill Associates.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
John L. Farrell

