



## **ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**January 14, 2009 @ 7:00 pm**

### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

**Attendees:** Walt Cressler, Brian Taussig-Lux, Vivian Williams, Karen Taussig-Lux (Media Borough Grants Administrator)

### **II. ADMINISTRATIVE**

- Walt read a letter from the new EAC council liason, Eric Stein.
- Walt announced that, in addition to Marcia Tate, Tedman O'Hara and Tyrone Glover have also tendered their resignation from EAC. There are now three vacancies. Announcements will be placed on the borough web site and on the borough cable channel. So far, only one candidate has expressed interest in joining EAC: Addie Cianella.
- Walt, Brian, and Vivian agreed that EAC would favor candidates with the following qualifications:
  - Connections with Media's business community
  - Experience with energy or recycling issues
  - Legal skills
  - Community organizing skills
  - Experience as effective environmental activist
- The goal is to select the new EAC members at the February meeting.

### **III. ENERGY**

- Walt updated EAC on status of Justin Wright's eco-footprint project. Justin plans to submit a draft report by February 12 and a formal report by March 1. Walt will propose to Justin that he present his report to EAC on March 17 and present his findings in a public meeting on March 18.
- Karen reported that the solar poster in the library is up; the 9<sup>th</sup> solar array has been installed at the Borough Highway Garage; and that we now need a location for a permanent sign describing the locations of Media's solar installations. It was agreed that EAC would propose placing the new sign in front of Trader Joe's, replacing an existing sign.

- Karen reported that Media's solar installations have generated a total of 96kWh to date and that they should generate 48kWh per year in the future.
- Karen reported that Tedman had not been able to make progress on researching induction and LED streetlight installations in Pennsylvania municipalities. Brian and Vivian agreed to take on this project in light of Tedman's resignation. Karen will find out who on Borough Council is now responsible for street lights. Karen mentioned a PECO program that would reimburse up to 50% of the upfront cost for new, energy efficient street lights.
- Karen asked if EAC would be interested in pursuing grants for bicycle racks. The EAC asked her to inform it of available grant opportunities, but not to pursue grants without further discussion.
- Walt informed EAC that Eric Stein and Peter Williamson have expressed interest in providing assistance to homeowners for weatherizing residences. Brian proposed that EAC wait for the result of Justin's eco-footprint project and EAC's strategic planning retreat before making a proposal to Borough Council.
- Walt updated EAC on HB 80 and SB 92 regarding the Advanced Energy Portfolio Standards. He recommended calling Rep. Killion and/or Senator Pileggi to push for the bill's passage.

#### **IV. RECYCLING**

- 50 decals are ready to distribute to Media businesses that recycle. Karen proposed that EAC members and volunteers deliver these decals in person.
- Karen will contact Eric Stein regarding the Advanced Recycling proposal to MBA.
- Brian reported that Peter Williamson and Ralph De Rosa had a successful trip to Westwood, NJ and felt that it would be technically feasible to use waste veggie oil (WVO) in borough vehicles. However, council did not approve the capital budget request to pay for the centrifuge and other equipment. Peter proposed that EAC look for grant money and/or wait until the mid-year budget review. Peter felt that it was possible that additional money might be available at that point.

#### **V. WATER**

- Walt reported that Media now mandates dumpster cleaning and that Sande Walton, borough engineer, is working on a recommended procedure for businesses to use to do such cleaning with minimal environmental impact.
- Vivian reported that the Boeing grant to create rain gardens in Media had been approved and will be administered through CRC.

#### **VI. OUTREACH**

- Earth Day events will include dedication of a solar poster, recognition of Pete Alyanakian. The event may take place around the "fence art" project at Media Elementary School. The date will be April 24.
- The retreat is planned for April 10 with May 1 as an alternative date. Attendees will include EAC members plus Eric Stein and Karen Taussig-Lux. Walt will continue to seek a skilled facilitator.

- Walt will prepare an outline for the new web site to circulate to EAC members. Eric Stein will be the new point person for this project.
- Bob Seiple of whynotbobstore.net proposed a “green expo” in the Borough Community Center. He said that he would organize other vendors interested in selling environmental products and services for a March 14 event from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm. He asked if EAC would be interested in participating as a sponsor. The EAC agreed to consider the question and give him an answer before the February meeting.

**The Next Meeting Will Be Held On Thursday, February 11, 2010**