

## **WARRINGTON TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES TO APRIL 1, 2009 MEETING**

A workshop on Compressed Natural Gas sponsored by Bucks Association of Township Officials, TMA Bucks; Warrington Township and Warrington Township Environmental Advisory Council started at 7:30 PM. A presentation was made by Steve Noll, TMA Bucks and Mike Cere, Clean Energy. Also present was Mike Bannon, Bucks County Consumer Affairs.

Officials representing the Central Bucks communities were: Chalfont Borough; Doylestown Township; New Britain Township, Warrington Township and Warwick Township.

Fred Suffian gave an introductory speech and those present introduced themselves.

Steve Noll, Deputy Director of TMA Bucks spoke about Compressed Natural Gas (CNG). CNG was introduced in this area due to poor air quality in Bucks and Montgomery Counties. The idea started in the late 1980s and early 1990s. Pennsylvania has a deposit of natural gas. CNG is an alternative fuel which is available and costs a lot less than gasoline or diesel. CNG is environmental friendly, domestically produced and is safer to use. Mr. Noll presented a video which depicted a car being dropped on the trunk where the CNG cylinder is located. There was no leakage of gas or damage. The cylinder is made of a composite reinforced aluminum. The cylinder withstood pressure up to 1500 psi. The Honda CVX is the only CNG vehicle in the U.S. and can be purchased by state contract. However, one can add CNG to a vehicle 2006 or newer or have the CNG added to a state contracted purchase. Bensalem Township has already purchased CNG vehicles, has a fueling station and currently, Doylestown Borough has made a commitment to purchase CNG vehicles. The County of Bucks has made a commitment to build a CNG station to fuel vehicles at its public works department located at 611 and Almshouse Road. The company that sells the gas is called Clean Energy, Inc. (a.k.a. T. Boone Pickens). If enough CNG is sold, Clean Energy would install and maintain the station at their cost. The incentives to purchase CNG vehicles is in the new stimulus bill and offers federal tax credit; they will improve air quality, have significant fuel savings and lower maintenance costs. For example, an oil change is every 10,000 miles. Buses and garbage trucks are the largest polluters. Mr. Noll and Mr. Bannon have made a presentation to Waste Management, Inc. At the conclusion of the workshop, Mr. Noll took the people in attendance outside the Warrington Township building to see a CNG vehicle which was available for demonstration.

The Warrington Township Environmental Advisory Council held their meeting at 8:40 PM after the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Those in attendance were the following EAC members: Todd Baratz, Lynn Laurelli, Ivy Ross, Fred Suffian, Dave Weaver and Nick and Adele Weremeychik. Also in attendance was Barbara Livrone, Recording Secretary for the WTEAC.

**Public Comment** – None.

### **Approval of the March 4, 2009 Minutes**

A motion was made by Mr. Weremeychik to approve the March 4, 2009 minutes. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Ross. All were in favor.

### **Bucks Beautiful Garden and Home Show Exhibitor Report**

Mr. Suffian thanked everyone for their participation at Bucks Beautiful Garden and Home Show which was held March 20, 21 and 22, 2009 at Delaware Valley College. Those members participating were Fred Suffian, Lynn Laurelli, Nick and Adele Weremeychik, Dave Weaver, Fred Gaines and Scott Willingham Americorp VISTA volunteer. Also present was Andrew Voris, SmartPower.

All of the brochures that were printed: 5 Easy Steps to Assemble a Rain Barrel, Rain Garden, Little Neshaminy Watershed and Healthy Yard informational sheets were handed out to interested people. There was approximately two hundred (200) of each brochure. When all of the rain barrel brochures were handed out, the volunteers collected four (4) pages of email addresses. These interested people will be emailed and referred to the EAC's website to view the 5 Easy Steps to Assemble a Rain Barrel article.

The showcase was the working rain barrel assembled by Nick Weremeychik. The booth was complimented by a rain garden and the Environscape model attracted an interest from the public. A pond frame was filled with plants and compost.

### **2009 Earth Day – April 18, 2009**

The townships Earth Day event will be held on Saturday, April 18, 2009 from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM at Twin Oaks Day Camp. The camp is located at Igoe, Porter, Wellings Park on Bradley Road. Rain Date is Sunday, April 19, 2009.

### Volunteers

CB West German Honor Society, Central Bucks German Club, Tohickon Middle School German Club, Central Bucks Environmental Club, Six Grade students from Barclay Elementary School, Home Depot and various Girl Scout and Boy Scout troops will be volunteering. There are over one and twenty hundred scouts, students and adults participating.

Michele Gugger, Americorp Vista volunteer from the EPA will be coordinating the packets for the storm drain labeling groups. Lynn Laurelli will supervise the packets to

be handed out to the scout groups. The scouts will be labeling the storm drain, mark the map where the label has been placed and hand out an information card to the resident describing the importance of not dumping waste into the storm drain.

Mr. Baratz and Mrs. Weremeychik will supervise flower planting by Daisy Troop # 23 and Brownie Troop # 2594. Flower planting will be at the entrance to IPW, around the sign at the park, memorial site, and at the corner of Bradley and Folly Roads. Last year, twenty five flats of flowers were purchased at a cost of five hundred dollars (\$500). The same amount of flats are planned to be purchased for this years event.

The Central Bucks Environment Club will be planting plants at the detention basin located at Bux Mont Unitarian Church. The planting will be supervised by members of the church and possibly Master Gardener, Kathy Murphy.

CB West German Honor Society, CB West German Club and the German Club from Tohickon Middle School will be assembling rain barrels and will be under the supervision of Dave Weaver.

The working rain barrel along with the Enviroscape will be brought to Earth Day for demonstration. Mrs. Weremeychik suggested teaching a few high school students how to use the Enviroscape. The high school students can teach and demonstrate to the younger students at Earth Day.

Clean up behind township swim club and clean up of soccer fields are two suggested areas for Earth Day. Trash picker uppers, grabbers, gloves and trash bags will be provided.

Supplies will be needed for rain barrel assembling. Approximate cost per rain barrel is fifteen dollars (\$15.00) each and the EAC plans to assemble twenty (20) rain barrels. Home Depot donated five (5) twenty five dollar (\$25.00) gift cards. These gift cards will be used towards the rain barrel purchases. Mr. Suffian is going to purchase the supplies.

#### Educational Facilitators

Water testing will be on display by the EPA; the EAC will display the working rain barrel and Enviroscape; Mary Ellen Noonan from the Bucks County Conservation District is displaying a rain garden model; Karen Murphy, master gardener will be displaying a compost display or pollinator garden. Frank Williams, Coast Guard Auxiliary maybe presenting water safety.

#### Contributors

Dunkin Donuts in Warrington is donating coffee and donuts. Mr. Baratz will be picking up these donations.

Houlihans is donating a sandwich tray and will be picked up by Mrs. Ross

Illgø Meats is donating thirty (30) pounds of frankfurters and will be picked up by Mr. Weaver.

North Wales Water Authority is donating ten (10) cases of bottled water and will be picked up by the water and sewer department.

WAWA is donating (4) cases of assorted juice boxes (total amount 200) and will be picked up by Mrs. Livrone.

Wegmans donated a One Hundred Dollar (\$100.00) gift card and Mrs. Ross will purchase hot dog rolls, etc from Wegmans. Mrs. Ross will purchase snack bags from BJø.

Registration table will be staffed by Mrs. Livrone.

Entertainment will be provided by Karaoke and Beyond.

### **WREN Grant Update**

Mr. Suffian reported the final report for the 2008/2009 WREN grant is due by July 15, 2009.

Mr. Suffian reported the WREN grant for 2009/2010 has been submitted to the League of Women Voters. The amount requested is almost Five Thousand Dollars (\$5000.00).

### **Growing Greener Grant Update**

A commitment was made to DEP that public works would construct the detention basin and the design by Land Studies was based on public works construction. The detention basin will be located at Warwick Road and Guinea Lane. If the basin is not completed for planting at Earth Day, Mr. Weaver suggested contacting him to obtain volunteers from the Bike and Hike and Park and Recreation Boards. These volunteers could plant at a later date when the basin has been completed.

A preconstruction meeting was held by the township public works department and Land Studies, Inc. The plants have been purchased which is approximately three to four dollars (\$3-4.00) per plant.

Invoices have not been submitted to this DEP grant. Time and labor for test pits, rain garden and invoices paid to Land Studies plus a progress report will be submitted to DEP for reimbursement.

### **Other Business**

Mr. Weremeychik reported on a February 20, 2009 article that appeared in the Intelligencer. The article was about installing a water system which is a recharging system.

Mr. Suffian reported on a DEP webinar seminar entitled "American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 Energy Efficiency and Conservation Funding for Local Governments" to be held on April 28, 2009. The closest workshop is located in Montgomery County.

### **Adjournment**

A motion was made by Mr. Baratz and seconded by Mr. Weaver to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor. The meeting ended at 10:40 PM.