

**Borough of Mechanicsburg**  
**Environmental Advisory Council Meeting**  
*November 13, 2006*

The EAC Meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

**Attendance:**

EAC Members: Cese Viti, Susan Richards, Ron Santo, Sara Nicholas, Erin Arva, Glen Weber

Borough Staff: Glenda Boyer

Guests: Glenn Swank and Roger Kitchen of the Mechanicsburg Shade Tree Commission

**Reading and Approval of Minutes**

- Minutes were accepted as prepared

**Report of the Recycling Committee**

- There was no report from the Committee meeting which had not yet been held
- Glenda Boyer discussed concerns over the drop in tonnage in residential recycling. One idea about the cause may be that residents are continuing to recycle at their historic rate but that the recyclable materials weigh less due to the increased use of consumer packaging made of plastic rather than glass.

**Guests/Public Comment**

- No public comment
- Rodger Kitchen and Glenn Swank of the Mechanicsburg Shade Tree Commission discussed the activities of the Commission. Among the activities the Commission has recently been involved, is the 2004 update of the Borough Shade Tree Ordinance. This document includes recommended tree species and maintenance requirements for street trees. The Commission has developed a condensed version of the ordinance in booklet form for distribution. The guests said that the Commission's activities included making recommendations to Borough Council and assisting in neighbor disputes and complaints regarding street trees.

**Old Business**

- Cese Viti told the group that Steve Barber, the borough engineer, had reported his recommendations on rubber sidewalk to the Borough Council. He had recommended that rubber sidewalks should be allowed in the borough and be used for new sidewalk installation rather than as a replacement. The Borough Council agreed to allow rubber sidewalks in the borough ordinance. Borough Council also decided that they didn't want to remove the sidewalk (in front of PNC) in order to install a rubber sidewalk demonstration. Sara Nicholas suggested possibly using the money budgeted for a rubber sidewalk demonstration to cost-share individuals interested in installing a demonstration on their property.
- The group was informed that the EAC page on the borough website could be updated through Glenda Boyer. Ideas for content were discussed including a green tip of the month.

- Erin Arva is continuing to pursue information about the biofuels AFIG grants and if they fund purchase of mixed biofuels/diesel products
- Methane bio-digester technology as a source of energy for the borough waste treatment plant was revisited. Erin Arva will take capacity questions to the Gannett Fleming engineer working with the waste treatment plant.
- Glen Weber updated the group on his tree-space census.
- Improved citizen recycling on Jubilee Day was discussed
- It was suggested that a calendar of events be kept for the EAC. Erin Arva offered to keep the calendar.
- Cese Viti told the group about a DEP mini-grant opportunity. The Bright Ideas Grant program has a simple application due May 15. One possible use would be to fund the materials for storm drain painting.

### **New Business**

- Sara Nicholas brought to the group a request for a support letter for a Yellow Breeches watershed project. The EAC approved of sending a support letter. Sara will draft it and Ron Santo will sign.
- Ron Santo told the group that the EAC had been asked to submit information about its membership and activities for the Borough Annual Report. Ron offered to draft the article.

### **Adjourn**

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

**Next Meeting December 5**