Environmental Advisory Council

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Ad Hoc Environmental Initiatives Committee Members:

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Commissioner George Manos
Commissioner V. Scott Zelov
Environmental Action Plan 2018-2022
May 21, 2019
EAC Top Priorities

1. Increase Township Resiliency and Environmental Quality
2. Improve the Quality and Reduce the Quantity of Stormwater
3. Ensure Protection of Additional Open Space
4. Restore and Rehabilitate Natural Areas
5. Remove Invasive Species from Township Property

Ludington Library Green Roof

Mill Creek
2019 Award - *Categories*

- Resident
- Commercial
- Institutional
- Organization
- Site Greening
- Sustainability
- Multi-Family

The Joseph M. Manko Lifetime Achievement Award
Resident Award - Qualifications

Presented to a Township resident who have taken actions that have resulted in the improvement or protection of the environment.
Resident Award - Winner
Phyllis Blumberg
Resident Award

Description of Environmental Accomplishments

• Removed all the grass and installed native plants on property.
• Planted many trees to shade the property and for stormwater management.
Resident Award

Description of Environmental Accomplishments

• Retrofitted her 80 year old home to have geothermal HVAC.
• Installed a 8.91kW solar power system on roof of her home.
• Installed insulation in private home and replaced all the windows to be more energy efficient.
• Commute to West Philadelphia for job by SEPTA and use public transit whenever possible, including taking trains and buses to other regions.
• Participated in volunteer service vacations.
• Volunteered for PennEnvironment and lobbied for renewable energy with elected officials at all levels.
• Attends Lower Merion Environmental Advisory council meetings.

Maintained or build trails in national parks or monuments or along the Appalachian Trail or side trails for the Sierra Club and the Appalachian Mountain Club every other year for the past 15 years.

Phyllis Blumberg is on the right, second row with the yellow hard hat.
Multi-Family Award - *Qualifications*

Presented to a Township residents who have taken actions that have resulted in the improvement or protection of the environment.
Multi-Family Award - Winner
Beaumont at Bryn Mawr Retirement Community
Multi Family Award

Description of Environmental Accomplishments

Energy Conservation

• A gas-powered generator with campus-wide capacity was installed after several grid outages - especially important for patients living in the Health Center. Through active demand monitoring, Beaumont is also able to add back electricity to the grid during peak demand times.

• Common area and exterior lighting have been converted to hyper-efficient LEDs (light emitting diodes)

Geothermal wells to augment traditional heating and cooling systems for the villas, apartments and mansion, reducing our reliance on fossil fuels, limiting our carbon output, and saving an estimated 30 to 60% over gas or oil alone.
Multi Family Award
Description of Environmental Accomplishments

Stormwater Management

• Innovative, underground holding basins have been installed to intercept water from roofs and roads, to slow storm water runoff and allow it to soak in.

• Rain gardens have been planted to receive runoff from the commons, and native grasses and flowers help to increase ground water recharge.

Half-acre pond & the Vale spillway are the two primary collection basins for rain and stormwater runoff, adding bio-diversity and beauty. The Vale is usually dry and offers a chance for many Beaumont dogs to run free.
Multi Family Award
Description of Environmental Accomplishments

Gardens and Earth Day

• Earth Day is a major event for Beaumont residents and ground staff, celebrated by cleaning up winter residue around campus and planting native wild flowers and trees.

• Lawns are treated organically to reduce the exposure of residents, pets, and neighbors downstream to dangerous chemicals.

The greenhouse serves as incubator and winter home for seeds and plants for both residents and ground staff.
Multi Family Award
Description of Environmental Accomplishments

Woods and trails

Beaumont's 25 acres of woodland are designated a Stewardship Forest by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources, and protocols from the Natural Lands Trust provide staff and resident volunteers guidance in maintaining this precious resource.
Multi Family Award
Description of Environmental Accomplishments

Waste Management

• Composting has become a way of life at Beaumont. Each day, kitchen and office staff and residents contribute nearly 50 pounds of biodegradables. Combined with leaves and lawn debris, Beaumont produces more than enough organic compost for its and residents' gardens.

Beaumont recycles approximately 60 tons of paper, plastic, glass, metal and cardboard annually, and carefully selects and monitors its trash hauler for best practices.
Institutional Award - Qualifications

Presented to schools, universities, or affiliated student organizations or youth organizations in the Township.
Institutional Award - Winner
Bryn Mawr College
Bryn Mawr College (BMC) has a longstanding commitment to environmental sustainability. The College recognizes sustainability as an important issue of social justice, and therefore, is vital to its mission to be socially responsible. The Sustainability Leadership Group is a committee made up of students, faculty and staff that supports a culture of sustainability and environmental stewardship amongst the members of the BMC community and the inclusion of environmental sustainability in the College’s decision-making processes. BMC has had a climate action plan since 2010 which includes some of the following initiatives:

- BMC utilizes an energy/temperature management system that turns down AC/heating in buildings overnight as well as daily temperature setbacks determined by the hours of building occupancy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and conserve energy.

- Since 2015, the BMC has powered its campus with 100% renewable energy (wind via RECs). The College has solar array and a wind mill on campus that students and faculty use for teaching and research.
Institutional Award

Description of Environmental Accomplishments

• Three recently renovated dorm buildings received Energy Star certification, and Ward Building (Facilities Services) completed in 2018 was built to LEED Silver standard. Boilers on campus have been replaced with high efficiency natural gas boilers.

• Since 2010, the College has been upgrading lighting fixtures, and expanding the square footage covered by LED lighting.

• Every year since 2010, the College has been recognized by "Tree Campus USA", a program recognizes college and university campuses that effectively manage trees and engage students.

• The College’s Grounds Department utilizes environ-friendly landscape management practices, limits the use of synthetic fertilizers and toxic pesticides, and manages several areas on campus exclusively with organic maintenance practices: the wildflower meadow, the storm water pond, the woodlands and the student-run community garden.
Institutional Award
Description of Environmental Accomplishments

• BMC has partnered with Haverford College to offer environmental studies major/minor. As well, the College’s 360° program is an interdisciplinary experience that creates an opportunity to participate in a cluster of multiple courses to focus on common problems, themes, and experiences for the purposes of research and scholarship.

• Since 2014, at least one 360° has focused on environmental sustainability issues. Senior projects in the Mathematics Department have included studying the effectiveness of campus LED lighting replacement program, the environmental impacts of incineration vs. landfills for solid waste management, and evaluating the use of raingardens to manage storm water in a Philadelphia neighborhood.

• BMC also collaborated with Lower Merion Township to great a pond water feature as an innovative approach to managing storm water on campus.
Commercial Award - Qualifications

Presented to a business located in or providing services in the Township or Narberth Borough that has taken actions that have resulted in the improvement or protection of the environment
Commercial Award - Winner
JDOG Junk Removal & Hauling
Commercial Award
Description of Environmental Accomplishments

Supporting United States Veterans

• A Military Veteran's Partners company dedicated to protecting the environment, using company-wide practices and procedures ensuring that over 80% of the items we remove from residential and commercial sites never see the landfill.

• Partner with donation centers and charities, recycling centers, and other entities throughout the Philadelphia region to achieve this goal.

2018: 140 junk removal jobs in Narberth Borough, removing approximately 45 tons of unwanted items. Through partnerships, we donated, reused, or recycled 36 tons.

Donated items were distributed throughout the local community. We maintain this environmental stewardship in every job.
Commercial Award

Description of Environmental Accomplishments

Building Community Partnerships

**Philadelphia Furniture Bank** — Acts as a donatable furniture hub for Greater Philadelphia.

**Veterans Multi-Service Center (VMC)** — Provides employment opportunities, training, and housing support for the greater Philadelphia Veteran community.

**Habitat for Humanity** — Uses or resell gently-used furniture, appliances, building supplies, and more to give back to the Philadelphia region. Every item we donate to this organization supports the building and repairing of local homes.
Commercial Award
Description of Environmental Accomplishments

Building Community Connections

Contracted by St. Joseph University to clean out 120 dormitories, removing everything from tables to chairs to dressers, we made a concerted effort to divert every item from the landfill. Donated over 1,000 items to the local Habitat for Humanity and the Veterans Multi-Service Center (VMC), so the items could see new life and help those in need.
Commercial Award
Description of Environmental Accomplishments

Closing the Waste Stream

Commitment to protecting the environment through responsible repurpose, reuse, and recycling efforts; and to serving our community by donating items, supporting local events, and empowering local Veterans through gainful employment.
Organization Award - Qualifications

Presented to nonprofit entities or citizen groups who have taken actions that have resulted in the improvement or protection of the environment.
Organization Award - Winner
Narberth Area Garden Club
Organization Award

Description of Environmental Accomplishments

Community Outreach + Education

Holds monthly meetings, October to May, and invites speakers who are experts on variety of topics which are of interest to residential gardeners and the local community.

Garden Instillations

The club has been committed to local greening projects including:

• Sabine Park landscape plan (2019) requested by the Director of Public Works includes native plants, shrubs and trees
• Plans for planters in public spaces and community garden in Narberth borough.

  • Station Garden at the Narberth train station (2014- present) – club members created and maintain a certified pollinator and perennial garden.
Organization Award

Description of Environmental Accomplishments

Garden at the Narberth Library (2018)
Organization Award

Description of Environmental Accomplishments

- Coordinated with Sweet Mabel Folk Art & Fine Craft to create insect houses.
Organization Award

Description of Environmental Accomplishments

Lecture Series

• The Cradle of American Gardening - 300 Years in Horticulture
• Body-Smart Gardening
• Insect Identification: Is this a Good Guy or a Pest?
• Storms, Sewers, and Streams: Practical Garden Tips for Reducing Pollution and Retaining Rain
• Spring Flower Arrangements
• Your Garden Matters
• The American Lawn: Where it Comes from: What is Costs, and Ways to Make it More Environmentally Friendly
• Spray and Pray: A Misguided Faith in Pesticides Isn’t the Answer to Our Mosquito and Tick Problems
• Experimenting with Native Plants in the Home Landscape
• Pollinator Friendly Gardening
Site Greening Award - Qualifications

Presented to a property that has been enhanced through greening efforts; Installation of trees, shrubs and other plant material; Reduction in impervious paving; Other improvement to the outdoor environment; and improving the site ecologically and aesthetically.
Site Greening Award - Winner
FRIENDS OF THE CYNWYD HERITAGE TRAIL

Friends of the Cynwyd Heritage Trail
Site Greening Award

Description of Environmental Accomplishments

Increasing Habitat & Biodiversity

• The Environmental Accomplishments realized through unparalleled commitment from township commissioners, the parks department, the building and planning department and the dedicated staff from the West Laurel Hill Cemetery.

• Cynwyd Heritage Trail approaching 10-year anniversary & plans for Phase II are well into design and approval stage including environmentally friendly designs and strategies.
Site Greening Award

Description of Environmental Accomplishments

Creating Community Connections through Stewardship

• Since 2008, thousands of volunteer hours have been spent moving, changing and clearing acres of areas surrounding land where now local residents and visitors of all ages appreciate and utilize the outdoor space.

• Volunteerism from the community was and continues to be what drives this endeavor. Volunteers brought truckloads of logs, brush, plants, trees and railroad ties to the dump on “cleanup days.”

• Ten years of “cleanup days” have brought volunteers from local businesses, schools, State and Township employees and other environmental non-profit organizations to help build what is now considered a true gem of the Lower Merion Parks system.
Site Greening Award

Description of Environmental Accomplishments

Creating Community Connections

Planting of trees and flowers throughout the 2-mile trail and Continually clearing evasive plant species
Site Greening Award

Description of Environmental Accomplishments
Reducing Stormwater runoff Watershed Management

Mimic site’s predevelopment hydrology by using design techniques that infiltrate, filter, store, evaporate, and detain runoff close to its source thereby addresses stormwater through small-scale landscape practices and design approaches that preserve natural drainage features and patterns.
Sustainability Award - Qualifications

Presented to a resident or organization that has led efforts to advance sustainable solutions within the Township, and promoted actions that meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
Sustainability Award - Winner
LOWER MERION CONSERVANCY
The Lower Merion Conservancy protects and enhances our community’s character and quality of life, recognizing that the sustainable management of our environmental and historic resources is inextricably intertwined with both conservation and change. The Conservancy’s three main mission pillars are Watershed Conservation, Historic Preservation and Open Space.

Over the past several years, the Watershed Conservation portion of their mission has evolved to a broader Environmental Conservation effort with sustainability at its core.

The Conservancy has started many sustainability-related programs, and engaged elected officials and the Township’s staff, raised public awareness, and advocated for sustainable solutions throughout the Borough Lower Merion Township.
Sustainability Award

Description of Environmental Accomplishments

• Sustainability Fair in partnership with West Laurel Hill Cemetery with over 300 attendees. Annual event since 2016.

• Annual Children’s Earth Day Event entirely sustainability themed. Outreach to thousands of members. Approximately 200 families attend annually.

• Hosted Embrace the Climate Crisis: Community Sustainability Workshop at St. Joseph’s University on April 24, 2019.

• Attended and spoke at press conference with several State Representatives in support of Narberth’s ordinance banning single-use plastic straws and establishing a plastic bag fee.
Sustainability Award

Description of Environmental Accomplishments

• Met with Senator Leach’s office to gain support, conducted outreach to Lower Merion Township Commissioners, created a survey of community members to gauge their support of such an ordinance (over 400 residents have responded to date, creating a similar survey for Lower Merion Township businesses to be conducted over the summer of 2019, and began mobilizing students and schools in this initiative through the Lower Merion Climate Action Coalition.

• Hosted a Recycling Workshop for the public delivered by the Director of Sustainability and Recycling for Montgomery County.

• Conducted two tree planting events over the past year in partnership with Natural Lands Trust. Over 400 purchased by Lower Merion Conservancy and Natural Lands Trust and planted in Lower Merion Township parks.
Sustainability Award

Description of Environmental Accomplishments

**Stormwater Management**

- Contributed $150,000 towards Shortridge Park Phase 3 stormwater projects
- Initiated first “Green Street” in Lower Merion – grant to add numerous stormwater control measures on a densely developed street in Ardmore.
- Conducts StreamSmart House Calls – over 40 residential audits and reports with recommendations
- Conducted four Watershed 101 education courses
- Monitor all Lower Merion Township stormwater outfalls
- Conducted three clean up and planting events in Rolling Hill Park, recycling plastics and cleaning trash from the Schuylkill River.
The Joseph M. Manko Lifetime Achievement Award - Qualifications

• Presented to an individual or group.
• Long-term significant impact on environmental issues.
• Improvement, protection, and awareness of the environment.
The Joseph M. Manko Lifetime Achievement Award - Winners

Michael P. McCann, Ph.D.          Karen Snetselaar, Ph.D.
The Joseph M. Manko Lifetime Achievement Award

Description of Environmental Accomplishments

Michael P. McCann, Ph.D.

• Professor of Biology at St. Joseph’s University in Philadelphia.

• B.S. in Biology from St. Joe’s. He earned his Ph.D. in Microbiology and Immunology from Stanford University, Stanford, California.

• Served as the Chair of St. Joseph’s Sustainability Committee and was Associate Dean at the University from 2005 to 2015.

• He has been a board member of the Lower Merion Conservancy for 11 years and currently serves as the organization’s Vice President.

• Advises the Conservancy on matters related to stormwater management and sustainability, and helps to oversee its stormwater management initiative, which is funded through grants from the William Penn Foundation and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.
The Joseph M. Manko Lifetime Achievement Award

Description of Environmental Accomplishments

Michael P. McCann, Ph.D.

Mike has written and contributed to dozens of publications and has received numerous grants and awards for his work in genetics, microbiology, sustainability and the environment. A few notable institutions that have awarded Mike’s work include the:

- Pennsylvania Department of Education Environmental Education
- Department of Energy Biomass Program Institute for Environmental Stewardship-Sustainability Research and Education
- National Institutes of Health
- National Science Foundation for GeoKids LINKS, a collaboration involving Saint Joseph's University, the Wagner Free Institute of Science, and the School District of Philadelphia. This program places graduate and advanced undergraduate Fellows into Philadelphia 1st through 5th grade classrooms as a part of their training in science.

- Mike and co-lifetime achievement award recipient, Dr. Karen Snetselaar, his wife, live in Bala Cynwyd, a stone’s throw from the Cywyd Heritage Trail. enjoy tending to their native plant gardens and are avid hikers. They can often be seen walking together in every neighborhood of Lower Merion.
The Joseph M. Manko Lifetime Achievement Award

Description of Environmental Accomplishments

Karen Snetselaar, Ph.D.

• Karen Snetselaar is a Graduate Director and Professor of Biology at St. Joseph’s University in Philadelphia.

• Karen holds a B.L.S. from Iowa State University and an M.S. in Botany (Mycology) from Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa.

• She earned her Ph.D in Plant Pathology (Mycology), from the University of Georgia in Athens, Georgia.

• Karen teaches biology, chemical biology, environmental and sustainability studies and environmental sciences at St. Joe’s and is an expert in plant pathology and invasive plant species.

• Karen oversees the Horticulture Program at the Arboretum of the Barnes Foundation, which will help to ensure the longevity of the Arboretum’s legacy and has recently formed an Advisory Committee of representatives from the conservation, horticultural and science worlds to advise on the work that will take place at the Arboretum.
The Joseph M. Manko Lifetime Achievement Award

Description of Environmental Accomplishments
Karen Snetselaar, Ph.D.

- She is the director of a science education outreach program called GeoKids LINKS, which has brought place-based science into Philadelphia elementary schools for more than 10 years.
- Karen has appeared on WHYY’s “You Bet Your Garden” several times and has done media interviews on invasive species.
- The Philadelphia Inquirer has profiled her work on the Cynwyd Heritage Trail.
- Karen has written and contributed to dozens of publications and has received numerous grants and awards for his work in botany, nature, fungal genetics, and the environment. She is the managing editor of the journal, Mycologia.
- In June, Karen will begin serving on the Board of the Lower Merion Conservancy, where she has been a volunteer for more than a decade. Karen has created and presented lectures for the Conservancy that support the organization’s stormwater initiative.
- She recently joined the Board of the Friends of the Cynwyd Heritage Trail.
- Karen is an avid hiker and has completed many sections of the Appalachian Trail, the longest hiking-only footpath in the world, ranging from Maine to Georgia. She spends many weeks during the summer tackling the rough terrain.
Thank you!