

Town Hall Meeting on Local Food Draws a Crowd

New Farmers Market Announced

Upper Dublin's award-winning Environmental Protection Advisory Board presented a "Town Hall Meeting on Local Food and Sustainable Communities" in February that drew a standing-room only crowd.

With attendance estimated as high as 120 people, the evening was lively and informative, and put Upper Dublin at the forefront of a worldwide grassroots movement to better connect people with the food they eat.

It also made news: A top policy advisor for State Rep. Josh Shapiro announced at the event that the lawmaker's office is working closely with the township and a Philadelphia nonprofit, The Food Trust, to bring a new farmers' market to the North Hills section of Upper Dublin.

The meeting featured the presentation of two short films, "The True Cost of Food", and "What Will We Eat?", which each

explored the environmental and health implications of our everyday decisions about how we shop and what we eat.

Following the films, an expert panel, Andrew Altman of White Dog Community Enterprises, Tim Schlitzer of Food Routes and Andy Andrews of Pennypack Farm, led a spirited discussion and Q&A. The underlying message: Our consumption choices have an impact on our health, on the environment, on the economy, and more.

The evening was topped off by the "Good Food Fair", tables of presenters representing local farms, groceries and nonprofits that care about sustainability and the role of food in creating healthy families and communities. And it offered a special treat: George's Dreshtown Shop 'n Bag and Wegmans of Warrington served tasty examples of organic, sustainably-produced, or local foods.

It should also be known that State Representative



An expert panel (l to r) Andrew Altman of White Dog Community Enterprise, Farmer Andy Andrews of Pennypack Farm and Tim Schlitzer, FoodRoutes Network, at the recent EPAB Town Hall meeting.

Rick Taylor's office recently notified the UDEPAB and Upper Dublin Township officials that their Growing Greener II grant application has been approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. This \$42,283 grant will be joined by an additional \$17,000 in matching funds.

The EPAB, in partnership with Upper Dublin

Township, Delaware River Waterkeepers, Metz Engineers, Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association and land owner Temple Sinai will restore and stabilize 360 feet of the Little Pine Run near the intersection of Limekiln Pike and Dillon Road. When completed, this project will reduce sedimentation, encourage stormwater infiltration, enhance wildlife habitat, improve water quality and beautify that section of the creek.

The partnership will replant and restore 25,000 square feet of flood plain. This project will also provide educational opportunities and outreach programs to a number of local community groups within the Township.

The EPAB, led by then Chairman now Township Commissioner Stan Ropski, spearheaded this grant application. Commissioner Ropski and the EPAB are very excited to be involved with the Township's first successful GGII approval and look forward to many more in the future.