

Lower Makefield Township
Environmental Advisory Council

June 12, 2019

Meeting Minutes

Present: Barbara Baus, Co-Chair, Suzanne Blundi, BOS Liaison, Jim Bray, Alan Dresser, Kevin Gallen, Paul Roden, Linda Salvati

Also in attendance were Tom Wells and LMT residents Lee Pedowicz, and Katie Hensler

The first order of business was to welcome Katie Hensler, who was in attendance to get information about the EAC

Approval of May 8, 2019 Minutes – Mr. Bray moved to approve the May minutes as amended, Ms. Baus seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved unanimously as amended.

Climate Change and HR 763 Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividends Act – Mr. Wells was in attendance to update the EAC on the status of HR 763 and assist in getting the BOS's approval of a resolution on the issue. He reported that Yardley Council approved the wording of the resolution as it was presented to them. In Newtown Borough, their EAC approved the resolution recommending that congress approve HR 763 and it will now go to their Council. The Newtown Township EAC approved the resolution after removing the specific reference to approve HR763. Mr. Bray spoke about the Mayors Climate Change Agreement, which addressed similar issues to the House Bill and was approved by the Board of Supervisors many years ago. Mr. Bray made a motion that the wording of the resolution be modified to eliminate the specific reference to approving HR763, Mr. Roden seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously. Mr. Roden will make the changes to the resolution provided by Tom Wells and send it out to the EAC for review. It will then be sent to the BOS with the EAC's recommendation that they approve the resolution as amended.

Long Range Tree Planting Plan – Ms. Salvati and other EAC members hoping to meet with Mr. Ferguson to finalize plans for tree planting in the ballfields and on Patterson Farm. She reported on a grant that she will apply for that will provide for 15 trees. She also reported on a possible watershed grant for 2020 with a 50% match. There was discussion of whether the trees should be planted as soon as they are received in the Fall, or wait until Spring. It was generally agreed that they should be planted as soon as they are received. Megan Rogulis of the Bucks Co. Conservation District will meet with Linda at Patterson Farm on June 20th to determine the best location to plant trees and discuss the grants.

Land Use Plans –

Erin Dobry Road – Mr. Dresser reported that we are awaiting the submittal of a new revision to the preliminary plan.

Capstone Terrace Warehouse Proposal – Mr. Dresser also reported that a traffic study has to be done before this proposal is presented to the Zoning Board.

Basin Naturalization Program - There was a lengthy discussion of the BNP and it was decided that the EAC members would raise the topic in their meeting with Mr. Ferguson.

Volunteer Programs - This topic will be discussed at the August meeting.

Scheduled Meeting Time and Membership – Mr. Dresser inquired about the status of his request to become an Alternate member and was told that question is part of a bigger plan to revamp Township commissions. As for scheduled meeting time, it will stay at 7:30.

LMT Sustainability and Action Plan – Mrs. Dharmavaram was not in attendance. It will be discussed in August.

Plastic Bag Use Reduction – There was discussion of holding three styrofoam collections in the next year, one on October 26 (in connection with a documentary film on fungi), one on January 4, 2020 and one on a date to be decided later. At this point it is planned that all will be held at the Township Building. Reduction of plastic bags - it was agreed that, in lieu of buying bags to hand out as residents make the pledge to stop using plastic, we will ask our three grocery stores to each donate 50 bags.

Lecture Series – Mr. Roden recommended showing the documentary, The Human Element, about Climate Change. It was felt this might be too long, at 2 hours. It was agreed that we would show the documentary, The Kingdom: How Fungi Made the World, on October 26 at 10am in the Township Building. Mrs. Blundi offered to confirm that the Township room could be used for that event and was available.

Newsletter – It was agreed that the info on the Styrofoam collections and the scheduled movie should be included in the next newsletter.

Odds and Ends – Mrs. Blundi reported on the composting business she had researched. The cost is \$25 per month, or \$20/month for a one year commitment. They pick up once a week. Customers will receive mulch in return at a later date.

LMT Sewer Project – Updating the Sewer is a major project. There was discussion of some of the options that are being considered.

Yardley Borough Growing Greener Grant Update – Yardley Borough is waiting for the final contract.

Heritage Tree Candidates – Next week, Mr. Bray and Mr. Dresser will tour the Township looking for heritage trees candidates on Township property that can be recommended to the BOS.

Mr. Roden reported that the Governors of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York and Delaware are all on record against fracking in the Delaware Watershed. He also noted that the House Bill calling for 100% renewable energy by 2050 has been reintroduced.

With no further business to discuss, the June meeting of the EAC was adjourned at 9:30pm. The next meeting of the EAC will be held on August 14, 2019, in the LMT Municipal Building. **There will be no EAC meeting in July.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara Baus, Co-Chair

