

**TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MAKEFIELD
DISABLED PERSONS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, APRIL 22, 2008**

A meeting of the Disabled Persons Advisory Board of the Township of Lower Makefield was held in the Municipal Building on Tuesday, April 22, 2008. Chairman Huchler-Smith opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Those present:

BOARD MEMBERS:

Lisa Huchler-Smith, Chairman
David Rogers, Vice-Chairman (absent)
Megan Dorko, Secretary
Ann Piccinotti, member
George Crawford, member
Dennis "Digger" O'Brien, member

OTHERS:

Pete Stainthorpe, Supervisor Liaison (absent)
Charm Crawford

APPROVAL OF MARCH 25, 2008 MINUTES

Ms. Huchler-Smith moved, Ms. Dorko seconded and the March 2008 meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Mrs. Huchler-Smith welcomed Mr. George Crawford and his wife Charm, who will assist him at the meetings and Mr. Dennis "Digger" O'Brien. Each existing Board member introduced themselves and told a little about themselves and why they chose to sit in the Disabled Board.

Mrs. Crawford introduced herself and Mr. Crawford and explained that Mr. Crawford's speech impediment is due to a stroke he had and she would translate what he says at the meetings to the Board. Mr. O'Brien introduced himself and stated that he moved from the Township, returned and has three children one of whom has autism.

EMC

Mrs. Huchler-Smith stated to Mr. and Mrs. Crawford and Mr. O'Brien that the Board has been working on updating the EMC forms within the Township and has 90 completed forms so far. The Board thought it would be a good idea to approach the schools in the Township to obtain emergency information for special needs children that may not be in the 911 system. Mrs. Huchler-Smith stated she dropped off 40 forms at Afton Elementary School and Pennwood Middle School and only received 4 completed forms back. She asked the Board for their thoughts on why so few completed forms were returned.

Mrs. Crawford stated in her situation they contacted the Police about Mr. Crawford's situation wherein he may not be able to respond right away but can hear what is said and it may take him a moment or two to respond by typing and it has been addressed by the Police. Mr. O'Brien stated the lack of response may be the families wanting to maintain privacy about their children's situation or they may just be too busy to fill out the form with the challenges they face at home.

Mrs. Huchler-Smith stated she would continue to distribute the forms to the schools. She suggested the Board think of something to catch people's attention so they fill out the forms. She stated there is also information on the Township website about the form.

QUESTIONNAIRE

Mrs. Huchler-Smith stated the questionnaire is still being looked at by Chief Coluzzi and Mr. Fedorchak. Mrs. Huchler-Smith explained to Mr. and Mrs. Crawford and Mr. O'Brien that she is frustrated the Board is not hearing from the public about what accessibility obstacles challenge it so they decided to come up with the questionnaire. Mrs. Huchler-Smith thought the Board could send the questionnaire to the 90 people on the EMC list. She suggested the Disabled Person's Advisory Board brochure be sent separately from the questionnaire since it needs to be updated. She noted there is an updated brochure on the website.

GOALS FOR 2008

Mrs. Huchler-Smith went over the goals the Board hopes to accomplish in 2008 for Mr. and Mrs. Crawford and Mr. O'Brien. Some of the goals are community outreach through Community Pride Day, Senior's meetings, and the questionnaire. The handicap doors being installed at the Township Building and installation of the blind child sign. Mrs. Huchler-Smith stated the Board is working with the Police Department to update the Emergency forms, working on handicap parking, parking spots to be properly lined at the Township Pool and an additional parking spot outside the Tax Office door. She stated another goal for the Board is to see better accessibility to public transportation and they are keeping a watch on Bucks County who is undertaking the task.

LMT OPEN HOUSE

Mrs. Mazzitelli stated the Historical Commission is hosting the LMT historic open house tour on May 4th from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. She stated the Commission expressed concerns that the houses are not accessible and could anything be done so as not to exclude people. She noted there would be golf carts at Elm Lowne and Patterson Farm to transport people who need assistance and have arranged for an accessible bathroom facility at Patterson Farm and Elm Lowne. Mrs. Huchler-Smith stated it might be too late to do anything now, but the Historical Commission should talk with the Township to make the houses more accessible for next year.

The date of the next meeting is Tuesday, May 27th at 7:30 p.m. in conference room "C" in the Township Building.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Megan Dorko, Secretary