

**TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MAKEFIELD
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2008**

The regular meeting of the Environmental Advisory Council of the Township of Lower Makefield was held in the Lower Makefield Township Municipal Building on Wednesday, December 10, 2008. Chairman Jim Bray called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Those present:

Environmental Advisory

Council:

Jim Bray, Chairman
Laura Brandt, member
Alan Dresser, member
Rick Ewing, member
Geoff Goll, member
Lisa Grayson-Zygmunt, alternate (absent)
Gail McMaster, member (absent)
Joseph Sundeen, Vice-Chairman

Others:

Greg Caiola, Supervisor Liaison

APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 2008 MEETING MINUTES

Mrs. Brandt moved and Mr. Sundeen seconded and it was unanimously carried to approve the October 2008 meeting minutes with changes.

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARD AWARD

Mr. Bray noted that Mrs. Brandt presented the award to Catherine Beath at the recent Board of Supervisors meeting and the response was very positive. Mr. Caiola asked Mrs. Brandt if the Council has received any response to a student nominee for the award and Mrs. Brandt stated she received some inquiries from the Boy Scouts but nothing definite. Mrs. Brandt stated that Ms. Beath chose 5-Mile Woods as the recipient of the charitable donation award.

Mr. Bray asked if at the next Board of Supervisors meeting the BOS Chair and the EAC should present 5-Mile Woods with the \$500 award from the Environmental Steward Award. Mr. Caiola concurred.

COOL CITIES

Mr. Bray stated the C02 inventory was completed and presented. He stated the Committee is starting to prepare an action plan. A grant should be coming through at the beginning of 2009, which may cover writing the action plan. Mr. Bray stated the

Committee would like to hire a consultant to write the action plan but the Committee could do it if the grant money does not come through.

LMT TRASH HAULING

Mr. Bray stated he spoke with all of the Township Supervisors prior to the recent meeting and the EAC's plan was to simply present the information collected at the meeting and then ask the public to come back in January to speak with the experts and the trash haulers but the meeting took on a different direction. The problem was the public received misinformation about the process. Mr. Bray reported that 80% of the emails Mr. Fedorchak received about the trash hauling issue were against a single trash hauler.

Mr. Bray stated the plan is that the EAC will modify its recommendations based on input from the community. He stated he found out that people want to protect the small trash haulers. The solution would be to break the Township up into zones. Mr. Bray suggested some of the EAC's recommendations should be a senior discount, one or two times per week pickup, leave associations out of a Township agreement, highlight a performance and penalty clause in the contract, haulers send out bills directly to the homeowners rather than the Township, and highlight a termination clause in the contract.

Mr. Caiola asked if there is an opt-out clause for individuals who do not wish to be part of one trash hauler agreement and Mr. Dresser replied no.

The Council talked about how to proceed with the single trash hauler proposal. Mr. Caiola suggested the Council present the economic benefit and environmental impact on the Township. Mr. Bray stated at the January Board of Supervisors meeting he will have representatives from several different townships to discuss the pros and cons of a single trash hauler and an air quality expert will talk about why these trash trucks are bad for the environment.

Mr. Bray stated he and Mrs. Grayson-Zygmunt came up with a timeline for the next 6 weeks. They will ask the Board of Supervisors based on the recommendations of the EAC to put out a Request for Proposal for bids from the trash haulers.

Mr. Dresser stated he found out about a \$7500 grant available to be used to assess trash hauling practices through the Pennsylvania Recycling Technical Assistance Program. He suggested the Council move the planned presentation at the Jan. 21 meeting of the Board of Supervisors back to allow time for a

trash hauling study and survey of LMT residents using this money to take place. Mr. Dresser stated the money for this technical assistance comes from Pennsylvania DEP's tipping fees, through the Solid Waste Association of North America. A consultant, Gannet-Flemming, will put together a report on LMT's trash hauling and recycling practices. The Council has completed much of the work needed for the report, so a lot of the money could be spent on a survey of LMT residents. The Council agreed to put off the Jan. 21 presentation until the survey could be done and the Council could do more research. Mr. Dresser asked if the Council needs the Board's approval to move forward on the technical assistance grant application and Mr. Caiola replied that he would speak with Mr. Fedorchak but the Council should proceed.

Mr. Bray summarized that at the January 5, 2009 Board of Supervisors meeting the EAC will inform the Board that the Council will make application for the trash hauling report and survey technical assistance grant, complete the survey, and then present the complete survey at a future meeting. He stated after the survey is done the Council will invite the municipal representatives and the air quality person to the Board of Supervisors meeting.

GREEN BUILDING CODE

Mr. Bray stated he would put the Green Building code on the early February Board of Supervisors meeting for presentation. Mr. Ewing stated he spoke with Mrs. Grayson-Zygmunt to provide a payback time frame for Green Building and Mrs. Grayson-Zygmunt offered to help with the presentation. Mr. Bray stated it would be helpful to have a testimonial from someone that has implemented a Green Building code or resolution and how it has been successful.

Mr. Bray talked about different alternatives such as adopting a resolution to simplify enforcement of Green Building and either making Green Building code optional or mandatory. Mr. Caiola stated he would support a resolution if it does not cost any additional money to the Township to implement. Mr. Goll stated the resolution should be reasonable and practicable and not mandated.

DRAINAGE BASINS

Mr. Bray stated he spoke with Mr. Fedorchak who asked if he wanted to put information on the Township website about the drainage basin project. Mr. Bray stated they are in the process of choosing basins and are working with Mr. Majewski. They are moving away from certain basins that the public has opposition to. Mr. Bray suggested a few basins such as the buffer at Patterson farm and behind the maintenance shed that would go natural as part of this project.

2009 GLOBAL WARMING CONFERENCE

Mr. Bray suggested April 18, 2009 or April 25, 2009 as dates for the conference. Mr. Sundeen stated he asked Mr. Joe Wolff if he would speak at the conference and he is available both dates. Mr. Bray stated that John Ackler is also available to speak at the conference on both dates. The Council chose April 25, 2009 for the date of the Global Warming Conference.

Mr. Bray suggested securing another speaker for the conference and Mr. Sundeen stated he knows someone who installed geothermal in his home and could talk about the details of the system and how much it costs.

Mr. Caiola excused himself from the meeting.

LAND USE REVIEWS

Big Oak Road – Mr. Bray reported no activity.

Dogwood – Mr. Bray stated the ERSAM has been requested but not received yet.

Capstone – Mr. Bray stated the preliminary plans have been approved. Mr. Goll suggested the Council modify the LID ordinance to have more performance standards and be more specific. Mr. Goll and Mr. Bray suggested the Council also revisit implementing the 100-foot stream buffer.

Frankford – Mr. Bray stated the ERSAM has been requested but not received yet. Mr. Ewing stated there was a meeting regarding Frankford Hospital on December 2nd and he asked the outcome. Mr. Bray and Mr. Goll stated the meeting was continued.

Fieldstone – Mr. Bray stated the developer has requested a meeting before the Board of Supervisors and noted the EAC is on board with the plans. He stated the EAC sent a list of recommendations to the developer and is waiting for a response.

Harbison Tract – Mr. Bray stated the ERSAM was requested but not received yet.

O'Rourke Tract – Mr. Bray stated the property is located on Route 532 and Washington Crossing Road. On December 4th there was a site visit and Mrs. Brandt is the project lead on this matter. Mrs. Brandt stated she would ask for many of the invasive plants to be removed. One condition to approve the site plans is to request that they tap into public sewer because they are now using a cesspool. Mr. Sundeen commented about aiming the direction of the driveway differently.

Middlemiss – Mr. Ewing stated he wrote up a response and he is awaiting a reply.

Scammel's Corner – Mr. Sundeen commented on the steep slope of the entrance into the development off of University Drive.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Mr. Bray stated he received an email from Larry Menkas who is now a member of the Bucks County Envir. Stewardship Council and he said he would like to attend one of the Lower Makefield Township EAC meetings to talk with the Council about the County's initiatives.

The date of the next meeting is Wednesday, January 14th at 7:30 p.m.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jim Bray, Chairman