

**TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MAKEFIELD  
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 2009**

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, May 13, 2009. Vice-Chairman Rick Ewing called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

**Those present:**

**Environmental Advisory**

**Council:**

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

**Others:**

Terri Appleton, Supervisor Liaison (absent)  
Matt Maloney, Supervisor Liaison alternate

**APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 8, 2009 MEETING MINUTES**

Mrs. Grayson-Zygmunt moved and Mr. Ewing seconded and it was unanimously carried to approve the April 2009 meeting minutes with changes.

**2009 GOVERNOR'S ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE AWARD DINNER**

Mr. Bray stated that members of the Council and Mrs. Mazzitelli attended the Governors Environmental Excellence Award dinner last month in Harrisburg to accept the award on behalf of the Township for the Cool Cities initiative. The Township received some press about the award in the Courier Times this week.

**TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANT**

Mr. Dresser stated the Township was awarded the Technical Assistance Grant last January and Mr. Fedorchak gave his approval to move forward with the \$7500 grant to conduct a waste management and recycling survey. The survey will be sent to residents then Gannett Flemming will provide the Township with a summary of the results. This survey satisfies requirements of Act 129 that relate to the Township's 904 recycling grant money and how the money can be spent.

The Council talked about how the survey would be distributed, by mail or electronically. The Council discussed at what percentage of return responses could the responses be

used a scientific determination to help the Board of Supervisors make a decision about recycling and trash.

Mr. Maloney suggested the Council make the survey simple and easy for people to respond to the survey to get a higher return rate. He suggested possibly going door-to-door to some residents to get the most responses.

Mr. Maloney noted that the Township newsletter will not go out by email this time but it will include a return card for residents to submit their email address. He is hoping that all future Township correspondence will be done electronically.

Mr. Dresser noted there would be a commercial survey in addition to the residential survey. Mrs. Brandt noted the survey looked rather long, but the check boxes are a good idea. Mr. Ewing made comments to the content of the survey such as the question about the cost of trash pickup and asked if information could be added about haulers collecting or not collecting cardboard, as they should be.

Mr. Dresser stated the survey could be sent out with the School tax bills following approval from the School District. He will send out the revised survey to the Council after Mr. Fedorchak approves the changes.

## **2009 GLOBAL WARMING CONFERENCE OVERVIEW**

Mr. Sundeen stated the conference went very well and the feedback about the conference was positive. He noted the conference was recorded on DVD and last year he paid to have copies of the DVD made and asked if the Council wishes to do the same this year. Mr. Goll said that he could make copies of the DVD at no charge. Mr. Sundeen asked the Council to think of ideas for the conference for next year. Mrs. Grayson-Zygmunt suggested the Cool Cities initiative the Township adopted would be a great topic to talk about.

## **GREEN BUILDING CODE**

Mr. Ewing stated the Planning Commission and members of the EAC met on May 11<sup>th</sup> to talk about the proposed green building code. He stated he would need to change the Council's presentation to the Supervisors to June 17<sup>th</sup> because the Planning Commission asked for more information before they would give their formal approval of the code. He noted the next Planning Commission meeting is June 8<sup>th</sup> and Ms. Grayson-Zygmunt is already sending information to the Planning Commission to educate them on green building and LEED certification in addition to other information. Mrs. Grayson-Zygmunt stated they had a discussion with the Planning Commission about introducing green building as an ordinance or a resolution. Mr. Bray stated an ordinance is harder to dissolve than a resolution. Mr. Ewing noted he and Mrs. Grayson-Zygmunt would meet

with the Planning Commission again on June 8<sup>th</sup> and Mr. Bray would meet with the Supervisors on June 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **PEDA GRANT SUPPORT LETTER FOR PENNSBURY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Mrs. Grayson-Zygmunt said the Pennsbury School District grant writer contacted her asking if the EAC would submit a letter of support for the Makefield Elementary Renovation Project. Pennsbury is submitting a grant application to PEDA for the Makefield Elementary Renovation Project. Mrs. Grayson-Zygmunt contacted the grant writer to get information to write the letter of support. She has not heard from the grant writer yet as to what is needed in the letter and when the grant deadline date is.

Mr. Goll noted the EAC would be agreeable to write the letter of support contingent on Pennsbury completing the green components based on the original scope of project that was approved by the EAC and the Township.

### **BUCKS BEAUTIFUL GRANT AWARD**

Mrs. Brandt stated that she applied for and was awarded a \$500 matching grant for a garden at the Township Building to be located near Edgewood Road. The garden will be planted by mid-July because the Bucks Beautiful committee will inspect the project in mid-September as a stipulation of the grant award

### **PLANT STEWARDSHIP INDEX SURVEY FOR 5-MILE WOODS**

Mr. Goll stated he and Mr. Bray recently met with the Bowman's Hill people. Bowman's Hill created a Plant Stewardship Index Survey identifying native plants and non-native plants and the plants are numerically ranked. Bowman's Hill has agreed to help Lower Makefield create the inventory for 5-Mile Woods and will prepare the final PSI. Bowman's Hill will do selected transects and develop a baseline. Mr. Goll stated he believes this data will help the Supervisors make a decision on how to proceed with the deer hunt. He also noted the results will be posted on-line with a list of plants at 5-Mile Woods which will attract plant enthusiasts and will increase tourism to the preserve. Mr. Goll stated the Index Survey would be done in a few weeks.

### **PROJECT UPDATES**

**Solar Project**– Mr. Bray stated he and Mr. Fedorchak are seeking out people who will be willing to fund the solar project at the Township complex. Mr. Bray stated he talked with Gemstone and other companies have responded to his inquiries with interest. He stated the Township wants an 800,000 kWh system to power the entire municipal complex. One possibility is that the Township would lease the system from the company that builds it and the Township would receive and pay for power based on a Power Purchase Agreement.

Mr. Ewing asked Mr. Bray if he had an update on the Smart Power solar system. Mr. Bray stated he was promised that the install would have happened by now and he will follow-up.

**School Education** – Mr. Goll stated that Ms. McMaster has been making presentations at the local schools. He needs to get a copy of the DVD with Ms. McMaster's presentation. Mrs. Brandt suggested getting more space in the EAC corner in the Township Building to put more educational information out for the public.

### **NATIVE PLANT HANDBOOK**

Mr. Bray thanked Mr. Goll for his help with printing the Native Plant Handbook and thanked Mrs. Brandt for designing the cover. He stated they are selling the handbook for \$5 a copy and all of the proceeds would be donated to 5-Mile Woods. So far, 22 books have been sold at Bucks Beautiful.

### **EAC NEWSLETTER**

Mr. Sundeen stated he is working with Mrs. Brandt on the EAC newsletter and hopes to send out a monthly newsletter by email. He stated every time the EAC has an event he and Mrs. Brandt could print out the newsletter for distribution at the event.

### **DRAINAGE BASIN PROJECT**

Mr. Bray stated some of the basins in the Township have been selected to go natural. The Township held a public meeting to educate people about what "going natural" means. He stated there are three basins that people complained about and those were taken off the list for this pilot program. He recently toured the basins in the Township with Mr. Fedorchak, Township Manager; Jim Majewski, Township Engineer; and Hank Hoffmeister; Township Maintenance Supervisor and a decision was made by all parties regarding the basins that would be ideal for this pilot program. They also talked about seeding some of the basins with a special seed mixture. Mr. Bray will take a photographic record of the basins as they grow. Mr. Bray stated the program would save the Township a significant amount of money in maintenance costs. He stated they also selected a non-basin area at Patterson Farm near the water culvert that leads to the pond that was being mowed.

Mrs. Grayson-Zygmunt asked if we should do a PSI of those areas or water quality testing.

## **COOL CITIES**

Mrs. Grayson-Zygmunt stated the Cool Cities Committee would meet next week. She stated the Committee is working on the action plan.

## **LAND USE REVIEWS**

**Big Oak** – No response from the applicant.

**Dogwood** – No activity.

**Frankford** – The matter is presently with the Zoning Hearing Board.

**Harbison** – No activity.

**O'Rourke** – This matter came up for preliminary approval at a recent Planning Commission meeting. The property is located near Newtown Township. The EAC did not get an official response but Mr. Majewski picked up on the EAC's comments and got a positive response from the developer. Mr. Goll mentioned that the applicants should be asked if they met with all of the Township Boards before they go to the Board of Supervisors for approval.

**Middlemiss** – No activity.

**Scammel's Corner** – No activity.

**Matrix** – Mr. Goll will need to review the plans and Mr. Dresser will make comments.

**Gatherings** – No activity.

**Harris Farm** – No activity.

## **OPEN DISCUSSION**

Mr. Goll stated he and Mr. Dresser would meet on the 22<sup>nd</sup> to refine the LID Ordinance.

Mr. Ewing said the Supervisors want the EAC to create a subcommittee for public issues such as the deer issue. The Council should consider the makeup of the subcommittee and its purpose.

Mr. Sundeen suggested putting together of a list of 10 easy things that could be done to help the environment and posting on the EAC's website. He asked the Council to email him their ideas.

Mr. Goll said a regional environmental council discussion group is being formed and the first meeting will be held in June.

Mr. Bray announced the Warrington EAC would be having a discussion on green building. The Bucks/Montgomery Environmental Council will be hosting an environmental summit on May 20<sup>th</sup> and will talk about green energy building, native plants and storm water management.

Mrs. Stringer, Township resident volunteered to help the EAC in anyway they may need help.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm in the Township Building.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Geoff Goll, Chairman