

**TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MAKEFIELD
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 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, October 14, 2009. Chairman Geoff Goll called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Those present:

Environmental Advisory

Council:

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

Others:

Jason Simon, Supervisor Liaison (absent)
Eric Yeager, student
Dave Ripka, Greenergy
Gayle Stringer, resident

APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 9, 2009 MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Bray moved and Mr. Sundeen seconded and the September meeting minutes were unanimously approved with changes.

KVAR PRESENTATION – Dave Ripka, Greenergy

Mr. Ripka from Greenergy was present at the meeting. Mr. Bray stated he and Mr. Goll met Mr. Ripka at Community Pride Day. Mr. Ripka said he has been a resident of the Township for 35 years, has an HVAC background and installed the largest solar system in the Township 25 years ago. He has been very interested during his career in energy savings. Mr. Ripka said that KVAR makes motors more efficient in the home therefore costing the homeowners less money in electric bills.

Mr. Ripka stated the KVAR machine captures electric. All motors are rated at 125%, 25% over capacity needed. He demonstrated how the machine works. The mechanism recycles saved energy rather than sending it back to the electric company. Mr. Bray asked if you need multiple units for multiple motors and Mr. Ripka said no only one motor is needed for the whole house. Mr. Ripka stated the KVAR machine would save homeowners money and reduces one's carbon footprint. KVAR will guarantee a savings of at least 8% for 12 years or will pay for the cost of the machine and installation if installed by KVAR. Mr. Ripka stated he is saving about 16% on his electric bills and had

a payback of 10 months on his unit. The unit also acts like a surge protector for up to 600 watts.

Mr. Goll asked what is the average cost to install the unit in a residential home and municipality. Mr. Ripka stated the install is \$595 in a residential home. He said he couldn't give an estimate for the cost to install in a municipality because no two municipalities are equal but the company guarantees a 6% savings for municipalities.

Mr. Ewing asked how long would it be safe to do electrical work on the system with the capacitor filled with energy. Mr. Ripka stated it would be safe to wait 30 to 40 seconds for the system to bleed out. He handed out material about the product and his company then excused himself from the meeting.

ERIC YEAGER – BUCKS COUNTY COLLEGE STUDENT

Mr. Yeager stated he is writing an environmental essay about alternative energy and green building and came to the meeting to get some more information for his essay on the work the EAC and Township have done on both topics. Mr. Ewing stated the Township signed up for the PECO Smart Power Initiative to buy alternative energy through wind energy. He said the Township is also working to adopt a Green Building Code that applies to Township Buildings and follows the principals of green building such as energy savings and waste management to conserve energy. Mr. Bray explained the Smart Power program further and the push for the municipal Green Building Code.

RECYCLING EDUCATION PROGRAM

Mr. Goll stated he was approached by a local Girl Scout Leader to ask the EAC to give a presentation to the Girl Scouts. A Solebury Middle School teacher approached Mr. Goll to lecture her class on environmental initiatives and suggestions of what we can do to help the environment.

Mrs. Brandt, Mrs. Bray and Mr. Dresser met the other day to brainstorm about the recycling education program. The Girl Scout meetings will be on November 9th and November 16th at the Township Building. Mrs. Bray and Mrs. Brandt will be leading the recycling program for the girls.

Mrs. Brandt stated that Harvest Day was enjoyable especially sharing a table with the Yardley EAC. They swapped ideas all day and had a lot of visitors to the table. One of the members of the Yardley EAC gave her a great idea for a recycling craft for kids using plastic milk containers to create re-useable lunch and snack containers. The Girl Scouts will make this at the recycling meetings. Mrs. Brandt stated they talked about a recycling workshop for the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts to attend to earn badges.

RECYCLING SURVEY

Mr. Dresser stated the Township newsletter scheduled to go out soon would have information about the recycling survey and a link to access the survey.

TREEVITALIZE

Mrs. Brandt stated that she, Mr. Dresser and Mr. Bray are certified as Treevitalize members. She said the Township could obtain bare root trees for very low prices. She said Yardley Borough took advantage of this program in the fall to plant trees along Main Street in the Borough. Mr. Bray stated the Township would proceed with the program in 2010.

PROJECT UPDATES

Bucks Beautiful Grant - Mrs. Brandt stated the judges came on September 18th to look at the garden and were very pleased. Now that the garden is completed, the Friends of Lower Makefield Gardens were formed to care for the garden. She made a presentation to the Board of Supervisors about the garden, which was well received by them and the public.

School Education – Mr. Goll noted this project is on hold and will be revitalized with the school-recycling program.

Plant Stewardship Index – Mr. Goll stated that 130 species of plants were found at 5-Mile Woods. If they come back in the spring to further study, they could find over 200 plants. Mr. Goll stated the deer enclosure areas have shown more robust diversity.

Drainage Basins – Mr. Bray stated he sent out his analysis to everyone on the before and after results and asked the Council for their comments. He gave a brief background on the program and talked about how some of the basins were seeded this past spring and summer. He thinks the program is working well and can save the Township money each year in mowing costs if the basins are naturalized.

Email Newsletter – Mr. Sundeen and Mrs. Brandt reported they had no update to report.

EAC Lecture – The lecture took place on October 3rd, over 80 people attended, it was 3 hours in length and the attendees loved the lecture and asked for another lecture in the future.

Construction Site Visits - Mr. Goll stated he is working with Mr. Majewski to coordinate site visits for EAC members for projects that have been completed and the EAC approved.

Harvest Day – Mrs. Brandt stated Harvest Day was on September 26th and turned out to be a great day. The EAC shared a table with the Yardley EAC and brainstormed ideas off of each other all day. They received a great number of email signups also.

GREEN BUILDING CODE

Mr. Goll stated the Green Building Code was on the last Board of Supervisors agenda at the end of the meeting. The Supervisors agreed to advertise the ordinance and it will be debated at the November 4th Board meeting. Mr. Bray stated he talked with attorney Vince Magyar and he asked for an updated code. He noted the updated code could be decided on at the November 4th meeting.

LAND USE REVIEWS

Dogwood Drive – Comments were sent in July but the EAC has not received a response. The matter went before the Planning Commission and Mr. Dresser told the Planning Commission that he did not receive comments to his concerns.

Flower's Tract - Mr. Majewski asked for comments and received them. He will send out a second set of comments tomorrow, noting the due date is past.

Edgewood Crossing – Comments were sent out last week and Mr. Majewski had a number of comments to add.

Freeman's Farm – No response from the applicant to the EAC's March 25, 2009 comment letter.

Middlemiss – Mr. Ewing will prepare his comments this week. He noted an abbreviated EIA was done and they did soil tests. He noted the property would have a conservation easement abutting the canal. The comments are due by the 23rd and he will send a copy to everyone this weekend.

Scammel's Corner – Mr. Sundeen stated that he has no update to report.

Octagon – Mr. Goll stated he would have something written up this week for this matter.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Mr. Bray said he was invited to talk at Towamencin Township. He noted that Towamencin Township was advised by their engineer to contact Lower Makefield

Township to invite a member of the EAC to talk to them about our practices.

Mr. Ewing asked if there are any updates on the solar project at Patterson. Mr. Bray said the Township was not approved for the solar grant through PEDDA. Mr. Bray and Mrs. Mazzitelli talked about grant opportunities that may become available in 2010.

Mr. Sundeen said he is looking for volunteers in October and November to cleanup trash for the adopt-a-highway program from the Train Station in Yardley to Morrisville.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 11th at 7:30 pm in the Township Building.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Geoff Goll, Chairman