

**TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MAKEFIELD  
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 12, 2010**

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 14, 2010. Chairman Rick Ewing 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, Chairman  
Geoff Goll, Member (absent)  
Joseph Sundeen, Vice-Chairman

**Others:** Pete Stainthorpe, Supervisor Liaison

**APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 2010 MEETING MINUTES**

Mr. Bray moved, Mr. Dresser seconded and the April meeting minutes were unanimously approved with changes.

**R8 TRAIN LINE PRESENTATION/UPCOMING PRESENTATIONS**

Mr. Bray stated that Mr. Fedorchak would like to put the R-8 train line presentation on the June meeting agenda. Mr. Bray said he talked with Mr. John Frey asking him to give a brief presentation about the R-8 line resurrection and asked when he might be available. Mr. Frey said what they are looking for is a Resolution from the Lower Makefield Township Board of Supervisors to support a feasibility study to reopen the train line. He noted that other municipalities have passed resolutions supporting the study.

Mr. Ewing stated some of the upcoming presentations tentatively set for June are the R-8 presentation and the Marcellus Shale gas drilling presentation, dates to be announced. The group agreed to invite Brady Russell from the Clean Water group to hear his group's opinion about the Marcellus Shale drilling. The group also talked about a possible presentation about the Audubon "Bird Town" pilot program.

Mr. Ewing talked about inviting the presenters to come to one of our meetings and limit the presentation to 20 minutes then allow for 10-15 minutes for questions. Mrs. Brandt suggested getting an outline of the presentations in advance of the meetings.

Mr. Bray said he would contact Brady Russell to speak about the harmful drilling and the affect on the water supply. Mr. Ewing talked about after the presentation on the issue, the Council would write an opinion about the Marcellus Shale drilling. The Council said they should get information from all sides first then the Council could form their opinion.

Mr. Bray talked about the Audubon “Bird Town” presentation and said the Audubon is looking for a model and thought of Lower Makefield as a good candidate to pilot and advance the program. The Township has accomplished most items on the Audubon’s certification list already. The organization will assist the Township to increase awareness of environmental stewardship. The Audubon will advertise the Township as an Audubon town and will provide signs to be placed on Township roads. Mr. Bray said he recalls the golf course was seeking Audubon Sanctuary designation but does not know where it stands. Mrs. Brandt talked about the requirements for Audubon Sanctuary designation.

Mr. Ewing asked if any other Supervisors might be interested in attending any of the upcoming presentations and Mr. Stainthorpe thought it would be a good idea to extend an invitation to the rest of the Board.

### **BUCKS BEAUTIFUL GRANT**

Mrs. Brandt said the Township received a \$200 grant from Bucks Beautiful to fill in the gaps in the butterfly garden she started last summer at the front of the Township Building. The Township is matching the grant with \$200.

### **TREE PLANTINGS**

Mrs. Brandt said the tree planting went really well and they received a great collection of trees. She has found volunteers from neighborhoods across the street to water the trees weekly, noting that each tree needs 10 to 20 gallons of water per week right now. Mrs. Brandt said that Brickman Group let the Township borrow 24 alligator bags to help keep the trees watered. She needs a few more people to volunteer to water the trees over the summer.

### **CELL PHONE RECYCLING**

Mrs. Brandt stated she collected 65 cell phones so far for a total of \$16 to be donated to the Veterans Monument. She said she has been receiving things such as old cordless phones in the cell phone collection bin and does not know what to do with them. Mr. Dresser said the Bucks County hazardous materials recycling program will take such items and she should check their website for drop-off locations.

### **COOL CITIES**

Mr. Bray stated the Committee is writing up an action plan and setup several committees to create projects to reduce carbon emissions in all areas like transportation and recycling. Mr. Bray talked about the Township energy audit that was completed and the Township has implemented many of the suggestions already.

Mr. Bray talked about some of the upcoming discussions that he is aware of that involves the public such as one passive house.

## **LAND USE REVIEWS**

**Edgewood Crossing** – Mr. Dresser stated on May 5<sup>th</sup> the Board voted to approve the Preliminary Plans. Two suggestions in our latest comment letter were incorporated into the preliminary plan. One was the request that the replacement trees be planted at Patterson Farm along the stream that parallels Mirror Lake Road. Although the applicant claims there was a decision in Pennsylvania courts that stated a developer cannot be forced to plant replacement trees offsite, they agreed to do so anyways. The other suggestion agreed to was that pollution controls be installed on the stormwater inlets along Stony Hill Road. This stormwater will drain to Patterson Farm so it is important that the water have some pretreatment. The property will have underground infiltration basins and the applicant will be responsible for keeping them clean.

Mr. Dresser stated he is frustrated because applicants will hold the Township to all requirements in the ordinances, but the Township does not hold applicants to all requirements in the ordinances, such as having to submit an EIA with the Preliminary Plan Application in order for the application to be considered complete (deeming a Preliminary Plan Application complete starts the Townships 90 day review clock). Mr. Ewing asked how we could make sure the Preliminary Plans are complete. Mr. Stainthorpe asked what is the importance of the EIA. Mr. Dresser said an EIA examines all of the environmental issues associated with a project. Mr. Bray said the Council couldn't make an intelligent decision about the property without it. The EIA is comprehensive in some projects many questions may not apply and can be waived. The study comprises the impact not only on the site but the surrounding area.

Mr. Dresser suggested a letter to the Township Solicitor be drafted that requests he investigate whether submittal of the EIA is needed for the preliminary plan application to be considered complete. It was agreed that such a letter should be sent.

## **DRAINAGE BASINS**

Mr. Bray stated the Township would add an additional 20 basins to the basin project, maybe more. There are currently 35-40 basins in the program, which could save the Township about \$25,000 a year in maintenance costs. He said he would like to implement the program Township-wide to non-basin areas such as adding the strip of grass in front of Patterson Farm that could be mowed less.

Mr. Bray said he talked with Mr. Fedorchak about potential open space purchases and he would be meeting with the Board of Supervisors in executive session about the recommendations.

Mr. Bray stated that he would be making several presentations in the next few weeks at Hopewell Township on native plants and at Highland Park. He noted the recycling group has given 4 presentations to groups such as the Brownies and New Hope Solebury Township School.

## **UPDATE ON NEW MEMBERS**

Mr. Bray asked Mr. Stainthorpe asked if the Board has interviewed any candidates for the open spots on the EAC. Mr. Stainthorpe said they interviewed one candidate and they are waiting to interview another before making their decision.

**OPEN DISCUSSION**

Mrs. Mazzitelli stated that she recently attended a seminar hosted by PECO about their Smart Ideas program. PECO will reimburse municipalities, schools, and businesses for energy efficient upgrades in response to the 2010 rate cap expiration and the need to reduce energy consumption by 20% in the next few years. She stated that she is working with Mr. Fedorchak and Mr. Jones to do some energy efficient upgrades in the next few months to receive reimbursement under the program.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm in the Township Building.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rick Ewing, Chairman