

Lower Makefield Township
Environmental Advisory Council
June 10, 2015
Meeting Minutes

Present: Alan Dresser, Chairman
Jeff Benedetto, BOS Liaison
Mark Bortman, Vice Chairman
James Bray, Alternate Member
Matt Conley, Member
Judi Reiss, Member
Paul Roden, Member

Also in attendance was Eugene Pevzner, LMT resident

Approval of May 13, 2015 Meeting Minutes – The May 13, 2015 minutes were approved, as written.

Welcome New Member Michael O’Sullivan - Mr. Sullivan, who was recently appointed to the Environmental Advisory Council, was unable to attend the meeting. The group remarked on Mr. Sullivan’s impressive resume and feel he will be a valuable addition to the EAC.

Recommendations of Alternatives to Roundup (Glyphosate) - Mr. Pevzner reported on information he had gathered regarding alternatives to Roundup. It was agreed, after discussion, that Mr. Dresser will schedule a meeting with Kevin Kall. At that meeting, they will ask Mr. Kall where most of the spraying takes place. They will provide him with information on alternatives, and a summary page. Mr. Pevzner noted that, once a decision is made on how to replace Roundup, there should be discussion about planting in the areas where the weeds are killed.

Updating the EAC Website and Sending Out Newsletter – Mr. Roden reported that the newsletter e-mail has gone out to the 356 people on the list. He hopes to get the EAC information on the website updated by the end of the week. Mr. Benedetto will provide the Township with some ways they can make the residents more aware that they now offer drug recycling.

Recap of the EAC Lecture “Information on Solar Energy” on May 30th – Mr. Bortman reported on his May 30 lecture. Mr. Roden, who attended the presentation, found it very interesting and suggested that Mr. Bortman could have it videotaped and added to the EAC web page.

Mr. Bray referred to a letter which he had received from the Delaware River Keeper, which provided an update on Act 13. It indicated that on December 19, 2013, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court issued a final decision in the legal action challenging Act 13, which was passed by the PA legislature in 2012. The Supreme Court’s ruling made it clear that every government official in Pa., at every level of government, has an obligation to protect our environmental rights, and to ground their decisions in sound science,

and those who fail to fulfill this legal obligation open themselves up to legal attack. The Delaware River Keeper organization offered to participate in public meetings to assist in explaining the legal and substantive significance of this very important decision. It was agreed by the EAC that this would provide an informative and interesting lecture for local residents. Mr. Bray will contact Maya VonRossum about scheduling a presentation in LMT in October.

EAC Event Table at the AOY Patterson Farm June 13th Art on the Farm – The plaque has been received and the location has been chosen. Mr. Benedetto will confirm with State Representative Steve Santarsiero that he will be in attendance to unveil the plaque at 2PM.

PHS TreeVitalize Watersheds Grants – Mr. Dresser led a discussion of the information he had received from the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society regarding their request for grant applications for tree revitalization. He will send the information out to the EAC. He asked everyone to be on the lookout for places in LMT, along a stream or detention basin, that could benefit from additional trees.

Land Use Reviews – Mr. Benedetto reported that final approval for St. Ignatius may be coming soon. He also has had an update on Scammels Corner; the builders are talking about maintaining the front façade but tearing down the back of house. It is felt that this may be contrary to the court agreement.

Odds and Ends –

Community Center – Mr. Benedetto expects that the bids will be back by mid-July, and a decision made by the BOS in July or August. Mr. Benedetto will find out if the bid documents are going to be on the website. There was discussion of steps that would be taken if the Green Building Ordinance is not honored. It was noted that there is no master plan for how the center would be used.

Tanglewood Update – Ms. Glass had reported that she did get in touch with GOAL, who offered to help, but she has since found out that the residents want to table the issue until Spring 2016.

Summer Schedule – It was agreed that there will be an EAC meeting in July but none in August.

Basin Project – Mr. Bray suggested that Mr. Bortman schedule a tour of the Township basins with Mr. Kall.

With no further business to discuss, the June 10, 2015 meeting of the Environmental Advisory Council was adjourned at 8:45PM. The next meeting of the EAC will be held at 7PM on July 8, 2015, in the LMT municipal building.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alan Dresser, Chairman