

**TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MAKEFIELD  
DISABLED PERSONS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 2, 2013**

A meeting of the Disabled Persons Advisory Board of the Township of Lower Makefield was held in the Municipal Building on Wednesday, January 2nd, 2013. Chairperson Huchler-Smith opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Those present:

**BOARD MEMBERS:**

Lisa Huchler-Smith, Chairperson  
David Rogers, member  
Trish O'Donnell, Vice-Chairperson  
Lynn Carter, Alternate  
Megan Dorko, Secretary  
Jeff Benedetto, Supervisor Liaison (absent)

**OTHERS:**

Barbara Williams (absent)

**APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 2012 MINUTES**

Ms. Carter moved, Mr. Rogers seconded and the September 2012 meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF SERVICE: GEORGE CRAWFORD**

The board took a few minutes to recognize the service of George Crawford prior to his passing. The board very much appreciates George's service to the DPAB, and to the community of Lower Makefield Township.

**REORGANIZATION**

Elections were held for the new year, and all officers will remain the same. Updates to the DPAB website and brochure were discussed and will be made to reflect changes in the board, and in the goals the board tends to pursue. The board also inquired as to the membership status of Barbara Williams.

**Update:** Ms. Williams has since been contacted, and she intends to pursue full membership with the DPAB.

**NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH MEETING**

The emergency management forms that the DPAB has made available to the community will continue to be mentioned at neighborhood watch meetings, and will be made available to those

individuals who are interested in having information about their disability given to emergency services.

### **DISABLED CITIZEN REQUEST**

A family with a disabled person recently contacted the township police department to inquire about emergency shelter during Hurricane Sandy. The Red Cross closed the shelter after a couple days. The Police Emergency Department contacted the DPAB to discuss the situation. Ms. Huchler-Smith provided information that was discussed with Chief Coluzzi in previous situations (flood evacuations). The only services that the township could provide during an emergency situation (such as a hurricane, flooding, etc.), is transport by ambulance to a designated shelter or other secure destination.

### **PARKS AND RECREATION**

It was recently discovered that the DPAB playground project is not formally part of the grant that Lower Makefield Township received from the state. Therefore, plans for the inclusive playground have been tabled. Ms. Huchler-Smith plans to attend the Supervisor's meeting on January 16<sup>th</sup>, and will ask about the status of the project then.

**Update:** It has been learned that approximately \$180,000 of the grant money will be put toward development of the inclusive playground. Instead of attending the Supervisors meeting, members of the DPAB will be meeting with Township Architects and the Parks and Recreation Committee on January 18th. We plan to discuss the possibility of doing the playground in phases. The playground can be started with \$180,000 of the grant money, and then be completed with donations, fundraisers, etc.

### **KOHL'S SHOPPING CENTER**

Ms. Huchler-Smith has contacted the parking lot manager, Mr. Walls, about the discrepancies in relation to handicapped parking and curb cuts at the Oxford Oaks shopping center. No official response has been received as yet, but Ms. Huchler-Smith provided DPAB members with copies of the letter that she sent to Mr. Walls for review.

### **CVS SIDEWALK**

A sidewalk outside of the CVS drugstore in Lower Makefield Township has recently been paved over with stamped asphalt. This new paving corrects the accessibility problems that were the result of the bricks being uneven.

### **MEETING DAY**

Since Ms. Huchler-Smith will have a scheduling conflict through the month of May, it has been decided that monthly meetings are not strictly necessary. Members of the DPAB will be attending other community meetings, and will keep in regular contact through e-mail should any important

issues arise. The next formal meeting is scheduled for March, 6<sup>th</sup>, 2013. Other meetings will be scheduled on an as-needed basis.

### **GOALS FOR 2013**

Goals for 2013 include updates to the DPAB website and brochure. These include:

- Continue to support countywide safe, accessible, on-call transportation for the disabled community.
- Increase community networking at local events.
- Ongoing monitoring of all building plans and permits for commercial properties to ensure accessibility.
- Continue to update emergency database services.
- Completion of inclusive playground.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at 7:30 p.m. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Megan Dorko, Secretary