

**TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MAKEFIELD
DISABLED PERSONS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5, 2013**

A meeting of the Disabled Persons Advisory Board of the Township of Lower Makefield was held in the Municipal Building on Wednesday, June 5th, 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
Megan Dorko, Secretary
Lynn Carter, member (absent)
Jeff Benedetto, Supervisor Liaison (absent)

OTHERS:

Barbara Williams (absent)

APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 2013 MINUTES

Mr. Rogers moved, Ms. O'Donnell seconded and the April 2013 meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT MEETING

Ms. Huchler-Smith recently attended an emergency management meeting held on May 29, 2013. The red Cross shelter was closed in Lower Makefield a couple days after Hurricane Sandy and we were under the assumption there was no shelter close to direct people to. It came to the attention to Chief Coluzzi afterwards that a new emergency shelter had been opened at Council Rock High School. In the future LMT should be aware of the closest emergency facilities so we can direct our residents there if needed.

Chief Coluzzi noted that he is personally testing the 911 database system to make sure it is updated with the proper information in regards to disabled community members. It was found that the 911 call center in Doylestown was not updated with the one citizen that expressed concern. It was indeed sent to Doylestown via fax by the LMT Police Department but did not make it into the system.

Also discussed was Pennsylvania's "Ready-Notify" alert system. This system alerts residents to severe weather and other emergencies. So far, only 1,400 people are signed up to use this service.

School security was also presented as a topic of discussion. The Lower Makefield Township police are currently performing security drills at local schools to prepare their response in the event of an emergency. The DPAB is hoping to send Ms. Carter to attend the next meeting.

SPECIAL NEEDS ASSISTANCE FORM

The DPAB discussed additional options for familiarizing the community with the special needs assistance forms. Several courses of action were discussed, including informing the public at special community events (specifically Labor Day at Veteran's Square, and at the LMT fire department open house). DPAB members will continue to attend Neighborhood Watch meetings, as it seems to be the most of effective way of getting the word out.

PARKS AND RECREATION

There are currently no new updates regarding the inclusive playground. The next step in the process is to have the architect get the project on the agenda for the township supervisors.

KOHL'S SHOPPING CENTER

Ms. Huchler-Smith has received an e-mail from Mr. Walls, the manager of the parking lot for the Kohl's shopping center. There is currently a contract being negotiated with a new tenant, and Mr. Walls will have more information regarding the parking situation at the end of July.

BUILDING PLANS

Edgewood Crossing: A new restaurant is being built, and, while technically accessible, the distance between the handicapped parking area and the entrance is not ideal.

Regency: Construction of the ramp for access off of the deck area has been successfully and satisfactorily completed.

BUCKS COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

The Bucks County Planning Commission updates municipal plans every ten years, and is looking for input from county boards regarding the future of Lower Makefield Township. The planning commission is looking for ideas regarding land use, economic development, etc., and Mr. Rogers and Ms. Huchler-Smith have made plans to attend the June 24, 2013 meeting on behalf of the DPAB.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 7th, 2013 at 7:30 p.m. The July meeting is cancelled. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Megan Dorko, Secretary