

Lower Makefield Township  
Environmental Advisory Council

December 11, 2019

Meeting Minutes

Present: Linda Salvati, Member; Soumya Dharmavaram, Member; Alan Dresser, Alternate Member; Kevin Gallen, Member; Paul Roden, Member; Suzanne Blundi, BOS Liaison; Lee Pedowicz, LMT Resident; Peter Solor, LMT Resident; Lisa Kampf LMT Resident

The Meeting was called to order at 7:45 PM.

**Approval of November 13, 2019 Minutes** -The first order of business was approval of the November 13, 2019 minutes. The minutes were approved unanimously, unamended.

**Long Range Tree Planting Plan:** – The Fall planting that took place in Caiola Field on November 16 and 17 was reviewed. There was very significant participation by LMT residents, more people showed up than had registered online, and everyone was very enthusiastic with the project being viewed as a great success. With regard to lessons learned to improve the next planting, the suggestions include: have more group leaders, have a training session for volunteers, better coordination with PWD to reduce amount of material moved and to make it easier for volunteers to set the plantings.

The concern about the potential need for regular watering after the trees are planted was raised again. It was then agreed that the EAC make a list for the Township of the specifics the staff should know about taking care of the trees.

Mr. Pedowicz asked about the length of time that tree guards were to remain in place. Ms. Salvati stated that they stay up for a couple of years. In addition, Ms. Salvati stated that there were about 20 spare tree guards that can be used for the next planting.

The next proposed planting is at Patterson Farm for either the Spring or Fall of 2020. Mr. Majewski had expressed concerns to members of the EAC that the planting should be scheduled so that the Township could receive credit for the MS4 program. Ms. Salvati stated that it was possible that planting in May could achieve the credit for MS4 but if that wasn't possible that the planting would be scheduled in the fall. With regards to fall planting it was expressed by various members that a late September schedule would be preferred. Ms. Blundi stated that a September or May schedule would not be an issue, since athletic team scheduling is not relevant at Patterson Farm.

The second phase of Caiola tree plantings will be scheduled after construction of the path along Edgewood Road. Mr. Solor mentioned during previous discussions, in addition to the areas provided in the James & Boucher plan that smaller tree plantings at smaller properties that belong to the Township or where the right of way was enlarged should be considered.

**Tree Bank-** Mr. Dresser inquired if any of the owed monies to the Tree Bank had been paid by developers within the last two months. Per Ms. Blundi none has been received. Mr. Dresser then briefly reviewed the discussion from the previous EAC meetings regarding a possible ordinance change that

would create interest charges on late payments or to hold development permits from release until fees were paid. Ms. Blundi stated that proposed ordinance changes should be discussed with the Board of Supervisors first before being drafted into a proposal to be presented. Per Mr. Dresser the preferred starting point is to look at the compounding interest solution.

**Land Use Plans** – The revised plans for the Marazzo Garde Center tract on the corner of Sutphin and Yardley Morrisville were received. Mr. Roden took the plans for review.

A preliminary plan was received for the Wintersteen property development between Rose Hill and Stony Hill Roads. This involves the removal of an existing building and the construction of new four townhomes. Shown in the plans is the removal of five several trees of significant size. Mr. Dresser is reviewing the plans and working on comments. Per Mr. Dresser the EAC might recommend for variances to allow the development to be placed closer to Stony Hill Road to allow for tree preservation. Mr. Dresser also noted that no stormwater plan was provided.

Mr. Dresser expressed concern that the Dobry Road development preliminary plans were approved without a complete stormwater management plan, and that there are concerns that the final plans might go through without the stormwater management being adequately addressed.

**Basin Naturalization Program** – Ms. Blundi stated that the Township is budgeting to have 50% of the detention basins reviewed for current conditions and to develop a plan on repairs in 2021. Minor repairs might be conducted in 2020. Mr. Dresser and Mr. Solor expressed the hope that the Public Works Department would consider naturalization at that time. The longstanding EAC position that it was better for the township stormwater management and maintenance costs if naturalization was pursued was reiterated.

**Recycling** – A Styrofoam recycling event is scheduled for January 4<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Bortman will be bringing two vans to collect the material. Mr. Dresser passed out a flyer for the event. The publicity listing process was reviewed and Ms. Dharmavan, Ms. Bray, and Mr. Roden will proceed with specific publicizing actions. Ms. Salvati asked if it could be posted to 'Next Door' and the answer was yes. Ms. Dharmavan stated that the Morrisville EAC has a Facebook page that are using to post articles and inquired if it was acceptable for the EAC to have a page. Ms. Blundi stated that it should be posted up through the Township Facebook page, and that the information should be sent to Monica Tierney.

Mr. Pedowicz inquired if a container could be placed for the week prior to collect materials. Mr. Dresser and Mr. Solor expressed that this would be an added cost, that a location would need to be agreed to, and that there was the risk of non recyclable materials being put into it.

Mr. Dresser investigated TerraCycle and found out that TerraCycle boxes have costs. The particular one mentioned was \$350 for a medium electronics box, which is not cost effective compared to the annual recycling.

A future E-Waste recycling event was discussed. Mr. Bortman was looking to schedule it in the usual April or May timeframe. Mr. Solor brought up that in 2019 there were similar events in Falls Township and at Council Rock High School which reduced the ability to distribute the costs of the event across multiple townships and which reduced participation. Mr. Solor suggested that outreach be conducted with eWaste Recyclers to determine what other events are happening in the area. Mr. Dresser will reach out to eWaste Recyclers and Mr. Bortman to work on coordination.

**Yardley Growing Greener Grant**- A forwarded Mike Thompson, Yardley EAC, email was reviewed. Remington Vernick is working on setting up a volunteer training program and Yardley EAC will be setting a date for that.

**Lecture Series** – Mr. Bray had sent out an email earlier on December 11<sup>th</sup> for a lecture to be conducted on April 18<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Blundi will put the event on the township calendar. The lecture space will need to be scheduled, and there will be followup at the January EAC meeting regarding publicity. Ms. Dharmavan suggested that there be a meeting with residents regarding tree health, and it was decided that this could be conducted immediately after the April 18<sup>th</sup> lecture and could include looking at the Caoila plantings. A lanternfly brochure was passed out at the meeting.

**Environmental Stewardship Award** Ms. Blundi expressed concern that there was a lack of process and standards regarding the Environmental Stewardship Award, given a high school group's submission for a proposed project that had not been completed. The award in the past was provided for projects that had been completed. It was discussed that a more formal process would improve things, Mr. Dresser will place application forms at the Township Building, and that Mr. Grenier would be asked to announce a request for submissions at a Board of Supervisors meeting.

### **Miscellaneous**

Newsletter update. Mr. Roden will have a draft out soon for publication later this month on topics including the Styrofoam recycling, tree planting at Caoila, Lanternfly identification and removal, the upcoming April lecture, and future tree planting.

Mr. Pevzner had inquired with the EAC how the process was going with the phaseout of glyosphosphate use by the Public Works Department. Mr. Solor mentioned that the EAC had in previous years encouraged the use of Burnout 2 to replace glyosphosphate. Ms. Salvati had an update that she had talked to a private contractor and that there are NJDEP approved mixtures and applications. Ms. Salvati will reach out to the Public Works Department to determine the current chemicals and applications.

Elcon. There was an NPDES update provided earlier on December 11, 2019 which no one on the EAC has had an opportunity to review yet. Mr. Dresser stated there no comments back yet on the air application and that various portions of the overall application were at different stages of the review process. It was mentioned that Elcon is suing Falls Township. Mr. Dresser will follow-up on the status of the RCRA Phase 2 application for discussion at the next EAC meeting.

Ready for 100 program. Mr. Gallen has been attending meetings regarding this in Doylestown which includes representatives from other EACs. The program is with regard to make energy 100% renewably sourced for this area. The next meeting is in February.

There is still a vacancy on the EAC for a new member.

With no further business to discuss, the December 11, 2019 meeting of the Environmental Advisory Council was adjourned at 9:10pm. The next meeting will be held on January 8, 2020, at 7:30pm in the Lower Makefield Township Building.