

Lower Makefield Township
Environmental Advisory Council

May 8, 2019

Meeting Minutes

Present: Barbara Baus, Co-Chair, Jim Bray, Soumya Dharmavaram, Paul Roden, Linda Salvati, Peter Solor, Co-Chair

Also in attendance were Lee Pedowicz and Tom Wells

The first order of business was to introduce and welcome Kevin Gallen to the EAC as a new member.

Approval of April 10 Minutes – Mr. Bray moved to approve the minutes as amended, Ms. Baus seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved as amended.

Climate Change and HR 763 Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividends Act – Mr. Wells, who is a volunteer with the Citizen Climate Lobby, was in attendance to provide an update on House Bill HR763. He explained that the Lobby has one job, which is to meet with Senators and Congress persons. He noted that our Congressman was a co-sponsor of the Bill originally and they hope to get him to co-sponsor the Bill again. To encourage his support, the Lobby must show him that his constituents are supportive of the Bill. Mr. Wells provided a list of the municipalities who have endorsed the Bill to date, and requested that the EAC consider voting to endorse the Bill. It was agreed that it will be discussed further at the June EAC meeting. Mr. Wells suggested that, if anyone wants to read more about it, they can go online at energyinnovation.org.

Long Range Tree Planting Plan – There was discussion of the trees that will be planted on Patterson Farm and on Caiola Fields. It was agreed that containerized trees would be more appropriate for the ballfields. The planting will take place in October and November. Ms. Salvati, Mrs. Dharmavaram and Mr. Bray plan to meet with Mr. Ferguson again to discuss types of trees and best locations for future tree plantings. There was discussion on how to prioritize after the Patterson Farm and Caiola Fields projects are completed.

Mr. Bray raised the subject of the Tree Tenders group. He said that he knows of someone who may want to be chair of the group. Mr. Bray again mentioned that GOAL might be a good group to hook up with to get trees planted.

EAC Initiated Tree Ordinance Changes – The Tree Replacement and Woodlands Protection Ordinance changes, as well as the Heritage Tree Ordinance, were approved by the BOS in April. Mr. Bray and Mr. Dresser will scout out heritage trees in the Township.

Land Use Reviews –

Erin Dobry Road – The 6th revision to the preliminary plan is expected at some point.

Capstone – There is no new information. The warehouse proposal is going before the Zoning Board. The EAC has not been asked to provide comments.

Lower Makefield Corporate Center – Mr. Dresser has examined the preliminary plans and sees no environmental concerns.

Fiorello Development – There was discussion of the Fiorello Development, a proposed 3 home development at the corner of Big Oak and Derbyshire Roads. The builder received approval in 2007, but no development has occurred at the site. Mr. Dresser drafted a letter to the Township asking that the developer be required to submit a new preliminary plan that complies with the newer, more environmentally friendly ordinances. An approved preliminary plan normally has a 5-year exemption from having to meet new ordinances passed in the Township. He asked the EAC members to forward comments to him and the letter was sent to the Township Zoning Director.

Basin Naturalization Program – The EAC supports the program being returned to its original guidelines. It was suggested that BOS Chairman Grenier wants to create a master plan before committing to the Naturalization Program. Mr. Bray and Mr. Solor would like to have a meeting with Mr. Grenier to discuss the plan. Mr. Solor will contact Mr. Grenier.

Volunteer Programs – Programs that might require volunteers include tree planting, Tree Tenders, and monitoring erosion, which is primarily a Yardley Borough project but one that impacts adjoining municipalities. Mrs. Dharmavaram will reach out to Mike Thompson in the Borough to get an update on the project. Some volunteer groups are the Honor Society, scouts, and the Environmental Science group at the High School. It was agreed that we should put a list of potential projects together and reach out to Parks and Recreation for possible volunteers.

Scheduled Meeting Time and Membership – It was agreed that the meeting time will remain at 7:30. Mr. Dresser would like to be an Alternate and is looking for approval from the Board to do so. If approved, the EAC will look for another full member to fill Mr. Dresser's spot.

Sustainable PA – Mrs. Dharmavaram explained that she and Mr. Solor will be revisiting this project and pulling more information together after which they will meet with Mrs. Blundi and then Mr. Ferguson.

Plastic Bag Use Reduction – Mr. Solor reported that, at the Community Center open house, residents signed a pledge to stop using plastic bags. The next big push will be on Community Pride Day in September when there will be reusable bags to give to anyone who signs the pledge. In the meantime, flyers and other advertisements should be utilized.

E Waste Recycling Event – The event was a success, though there was a big drop in the number of cars, which is likely due to the fact that more municipalities are offering these events. Mr. Solor called for a vote to pay the \$550 owed to E-waste, Mr. Bray seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Lecture Series – Mr. Roden recommended the movie, The Human Factor, which is about climate change, and Mr. Bray suggested The Kingdom: How Fungi Made the World. A lecture or movie on energy efficiency was also suggested. Mr. Roden will find out if movies can be shown in the Administration Building since there is better visibility there.

Newsletter – Some suggestions for topics for the next newsletter were tree planting, tree ordinances, and styrofoam recycling.

Odds and Ends –

There was discussion of upcoming environmental events, including the May 18 EAC Conference, LMT Community Day on September 1, and the annual Green Building Philly Conference.

Mr. Roden reported that he attended the Elcon meeting in Falls Township and that no one spoke in favor of the project. Now it goes to the Department of Environmental Protection.

Mr. Solor reported that the EAC will be asked to weigh in on environmental issues surrounding the LMT sewer project.

With no further business to discuss, the May meeting of the EAC was adjourned at 9:20pm. The next meeting of the EAC will be held on June 12, at 7:30pm, in the LMT Municipal Building.

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara Baus, Co-Chair