

Lower Makefield Township
Environmental Advisory Council

October 9, 2019

Meeting Minutes

Present: Barbara Baus, Co-Chair; Suzanne Blundi, BOS Liaison; Jim Bray; Soumya Dharmavaram; Kevin Gallen; Linda Salvati; Paul Roden

Also in attendance was Lisa Kamp. Mr. Solor was in attendance but let the minutes show that he is now a member of the LMT Zoning Board, and so no longer an official member of the EAC. He may be attending meetings as a visitor.

The first order of business was approval of the September 11, 2019 EAC minutes. The minutes were approved unanimously, as written.

Long Range Tree Planting Plan: Fall Planting Season – At a recent meeting with Mr. Ferguson, it was confirmed that the Fall planting of 123 trees and shrubs will take place in Caiola Field on November 16 and 17. The trees will be delivered on Friday, November 15; the question was raised regarding where they should be held overnight. All volunteers will be asked to bring shovels if they have them. The planting was announced at a BOS meeting. The next meeting with Mr. Ferguson will be November 8 at which time Ms. Kenney will have a diagram showing where the trees go. On November 14, she will draw circles on the fields to show where each tree should be planted and will tell Mr. Hucklebridge how deep the holes, for the trees, should be dug.

Mr. Bray raised the question of the two trees in Memorial Park that appear to be missing. Mrs. Blundi indicated that this issue is separate from the tree planting and that the issue will be addressed at a later date.

Regarding the planting on Patterson Farm, it may take place in either Spring or Fall, depending on when the planting could provide MS4 credit. Mr. Ferguson indicated that he would be happy to apply for grants if the EAC does the work.

Mrs. Blundi will follow up on the money that is due to the tree bank.

There was discussion about the importance of maintenance/ watering for the trees and suggestions were made for changes in the Tree Ordinance to ensure that the Township gets paid the money owed by developers. Both of these items will be on November's agenda.

Mrs. Blundi mentioned that Bright Farms wants to sublease their current greenhouse and build a bigger greenhouse for their use.

Land Use Plans – Mr. Dresser had sent a note out asking for comments about Prickett Run. It was agreed that the EAC will keep an open mind regarding the mixed-use overlay ordinance.

Mr. Gallen offered to help out by taking more responsibility for land use projects.

Basin Naturalization Program - Mrs. Blundi will ask Mr. Ferguson about the status of the Program and installing the Basin Naturalization signs the EAC had made at appropriate basin locations.

Volunteer Programs – Mrs. Blundi noted that Monica Tierney is doing a good job of accumulating jobs for volunteers.

Tree Tender Group – Mrs. Dharmavaram said there is a list of 76 people who were previously involved with the Tree Tender group. When she emailed the group, there were only two who responded. She will follow up with the others again.

Growing Greener Grant – This project is on hold because Mike Thompson has not received the plan from Remington Vernick.

Recycling – There was discussion of whether we should schedule another electronics recycling event. Mrs. Bray will talk to Mr. Bortman to get his input.

Plastic Bags – There will be a table at the October 26 film at which people can sign the pledge to reduce their use of plastic bags and receive a reusable bag from Shop Rite or McCaffreys.

Styrofoam – Mr. Roden will send out a newsletter including info on styrofoam in the next week and again a week before the film/styrofoam event.

Partnering with Terracycle – No update.

Lecture Series – There was discussion of the upcoming film on October 26. All tasks were assigned.

There was discussion of a possible future lecture on the Spotted Lantern Fly and, possibly, other invasive species and plants. Mr. Bray has discussed the possibility of putting a program together for LMT using the Master Gardener network.

Newsletter – Mr. Roden will include publicity for the October 26 events and an energy conservation article in the upcoming newsletter.

Odds and Ends – Mr. Roden reported that State Senator Santarsiero would be speaking at the Vault on Wednesday night, about environmental legislation, from 5-7pm.

There was discussion of light pollution in the Township.

The question was raised about whether Glyphosate is still being used in the Township. It was felt that, if it has been eliminated, which is a step the EAC had recommended to the Township, that it would be worth putting it in writing. Mr. Solor will ask Ms. Kenney to check with Mr. Hucklebridge.

Mr. Bray asked that everyone try to come up with suggestions for nominees for the Environmental Stewardship Award. It will have to be announced in December.

With no further business to discuss, the October 9 meeting of the EAC was adjourned at 9pm. The next meeting of the EAC will be held on November 13 at 7:30pm in the LMT Municipal Building.

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara Baus, Chairwoman