

Lower Makefield Township
Environmental Advisory Council

September 11, 2019

Meeting Minutes

Present: Barbara Baus, Co-Chair; Jim Bray; Soumya Dharmavaram; Alan Dresser, Alternate Member; Linda Kenney; Paul Roden; Peter Solor, Co-Chair

The first order of business was approval of the August 14, 2019 minutes. The minutes were approved unanimously, as amended. (It was noted that the August 14 minutes were inaccurate when they indicated that the reusable bags for the Community Center were donated by Shop-Rite and Giant. The two stores that generously donated 50 reusable bags each to the Township for Community Day were Shop-Rite and McCaffrey's)

It was agreed that Mr. Solor will Chair the October and December EAC meetings and Ms. Baus will Chair the November meeting.

Long Range Tree Planting Plan: Fall Planting Season – The Fall planting of 123 trees and shrubs will take place in Caiola Field on November 16 and 17. Ms. Kenney and Mr. Bray suggested that there would be a need for 20 volunteers each day, for around 4 or 5 hours each day. Discussion ensued on the best ways to find volunteers. Mr. Bray raised a concern about the size of the white pines, suggesting that they would grow too large. The decision was made to replace them with Eastern Red Cedar. Mr. Dresser provided Ms. Kenney with a list of prices the Township has paid for trees in the past. Mr. Ferguson had apprised Ms. Kenney that there would be no need to get quotes for this planting because the overall price is below the bidding threshold.

Long Range Tree Planting Plan: 2020 – Ms. Baus spoke about the need for regular watering after the trees are planted. It was then agreed that the EAC make a list for the Township of the things the staff should know about taking care of the trees.

Mr. Bray mentioned that he and Mr. Dresser noticed, when touring the arboretum on the Memorial Garden property, that there are two trees missing, an American Linden and a Black Oak. He asked whether the group thinks the trees should be replaced. Ms. Kenney will check availability.

Land Use Plans – Three EAC members attended the September 9 Planning Commission meeting which had been scheduled in order to follow up on the topic of Prickett Run. The Commission entertained many speakers but when the meeting was over, there were 17 people who had not had an opportunity to speak. Another meeting will be scheduled to allow the 17 to speak. Mr. Dresser asked all those interested to review the proposed ordinance changes and, if the group thinks it's necessary, the EAC will send in comments on it.

There will be another submittal from Dobry Road. Mr. Dresser stated that the EAC has not received a response from the applicant on its previous four comment letters on the project. Mr. Dresser will

forward his six comments on their latest submittal to Mr. Solor who will add his comments and send the EAC letter out. Mr. Dresser also mentioned that the Township will be limiting access to plans because of concerns that too many people had access. In two weeks, there will be a drop box of current plans that will allow EAC access.

There was a short discussion of the new Marrazzo plan that features townhouses on the current Marrazzo Garden Center tract.

Community Day – It was felt that Community Day was a success with 20+ residents signing the pledge to reduce their use of plastic bags.

Basin Naturalization Program – There is nothing new on this project. Mr. Grenier wants to wait until there is a master plan for the basins before he makes any changes.

Volunteer Programs – Ms. Baus reported on the Growing Greener Grant in Yardley Borough. She spoke to Mike Thompson, who said the grant has been fully executed with the State. Their next step is to find volunteers and train them. They will have sign up sheets at their table on Harvest Day.

Lecture Series – There was discussion of publicizing the October 26 movie including sending a blurb to Yardley Voice and putting it in the EAC Newsletter.

Mr. Bray will be taking responsibility for the Environmental Stewardship Award and asked the members to think about potential nominees.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara Baus, Co-Chair