

Lower Makefield Township
Environmental Advisory Council

February 10, 2021

Meeting Minutes

Present: Linda Salvati, Chairperson; Jim Bray; Soumya Dharmavaram; Alan Dresser; Suzanne Blundi, BOS Liaison

Also in attendance were Heather Guidice, owner of Kona Compost Company, and Richard Socha, LMT resident, who is interested in volunteering.

The February 10, 2021 meeting of the EAC was held on Zoom, due to restrictions brought on by the Covid19 virus. Ms. Salvati called the meeting to order at 5:00PM.

Approval of January 13, 2021 Minutes – Mr. Dresser moved to approve the January 13, 2021 minutes as presented, Mr. Bray seconded the motion and the minutes were approved unanimously. Ms. Salvati will forward the approved copy to the EAC and the Township staff.

Tree Planting 2021 Locations – Ms. Salvati reported on a meeting she and Mrs. Dharmavaram had with Monica Tierney. Ms. Tierney said that the Township would like to keep the planting to once a year in light of the logistics of bidding it out and the fact that they are short-staffed. Thus, there would be no planting in the Spring and the planting on Patterson would be in the Fall. Mr. Dresser and Mr. Bray argued in favor of doing two plantings a year, primarily because there is \$100,000 in the Township's Tree Bank. There is a fear that the money might be spent for something else. As has been done in the past, the Township Engineer, not Township personnel, could handle the mechanics of purchasing and planting of the trees. There was agreement that October 23rd will be the day for planting on Patterson Farm and around Mirror Lake.

Mr. Bray referred to an email he had sent to the EAC last year which said that no adjustment had been made to the Tree Bank tree replacement cost of \$315 since the inception of the Tree Bank in 2014. He indicated that the Township has lost about \$30,000 from 2014-2021. Ms. Blundi said she will look into this matter and report back to the EAC by the next meeting.

Arboretum at Memorial Park - Mr. Bray has been in contact with a nursery called Fernwood, which will deliver and plant the two replacement trees in the Spring, so that the Township does not have to get involved with the project. Mr. Bray will be in touch with Ms. Salvati and Ms. Tierney before the end of the week to discuss the logistics of the tree planting.

Land Use Plans –

Prickett Preserve – The developers received approval on their plan from the Planning Commission at their January 25th meeting. Mr. Dresser does not think they will get a waiver on the tree replacement requirements. He indicated that there was no discussion on the high number of parking spots proposed (1,213) and looking into possibly lowering that number. He believes there should be a detailed examination of this issue for a variety of reasons. Ms. Blundi will try to get some more insight on that issue.

Gomez Minor Subdivision – Mr. Dresser had three comments, including the need to maintain the 50' Brock Creek stream buffer in the future. The EAC comment letter will recommend a conservation easement be placed on the stream buffer. This has been proposed for other properties such as Dogwood Drive and the Timko property.

With no further land use business to discuss, Mr. Dresser made a motion that he would send out the EAC comment letter on this project, Mr. Bray seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Recycling – As the EAC is looking for additional ways it can support residents and the Township in reducing waste, Heather Guidice, owner of Kona Compost Company, was in attendance to talk about composting, a great way to reduce food waste. She offered to present a program on Zoom, as an opportunity to educate residents on how composting works. There was agreement that this would be helpful and Mrs. Dharmavaram offered to work with Ms. Guidice to bring this program to the Township soon.

The date for the next Styrofoam collection was confirmed to be May 15. Mr. Dresser had also found a way to collect corks that will be reused so the event will include cork collection.

Nicole Lafferty, a resident who had offered to do an assessment of recycling in the LMT parks, is moving forward on that project, and should have the information by early Spring, when Mr. Dresser and Ms. Bray will meet with Ms. Tierney to discuss the topic.

There was some discussion of LMT waste hauler recycling. Mrs. Bray noted that she learned, while looking at the recycling chart on the website of one of the waste haulers, that pizza boxes are recyclable. She will look further into this. Ms. Blundi said that there is some discussion that the BOS might want to look at using a single waste hauler. Mr. Bray mentioned that this was tried once before with negative results and that he has a wealth of information that could be used, if such a proposal surfaces again.

Also, the question arose as to what is being offered at 5 Mile Woods as far as public inclusion is concerned. Mr. Bray has a good relationship with the "Woods" naturalist, John Hilferty and he will look into this matter.

Lecture Series – There was discussion of having the lecture outside in a pavilion. Mr. Bray will look at that later in the year. Also, Mr. Bray, who is also a Naturalist at Bowmans Hill Wildflower Preserve, suggested that he would be willing to give tree tours featuring the Compass Arboretum at the Memorial Garden later in the year.

Newsletter/Every Bit Counts – Mrs. Dharmavaram indicated that composting is a topic that will be addressed in an upcoming newsletter. In addition, the flyer from the Vintage Tech Electronics Recyclers, a company in Langhorne, should go out in the newsletter.

Environmental Stewardship Award – The 2020 ESA will be awarded to Mark and Dara Bortman of ExactSolar on February 17 on the BOS Zoom meeting.

Odds and Ends – In answer to a question about the Bartlett Open Space property, Ms. Blundi stated she cannot discuss that matter at this time. She did suggest that, if anyone has more information about that property, she would be interested in hearing about it. It was decided the March EAC meeting will be held on the 10th.

With no further business to discuss, the February 10th meeting of the EAC was adjourned at 6:30pm. The next meeting will be held on March 10 at 5pm on Zoom.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Salvati, Chairperson