

**TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MAKEFIELD
DISABLED PERSONS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2008**

A meeting of the Disabled Persons Advisory Board of the Township of Lower Makefield was held in the Municipal Building on Tuesday, November 28, 2008. Chairman Huchler-Smith opened the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

Those present:

BOARD MEMBERS:

Lisa Huchler-Smith, Chairman
David Rogers, Vice-Chairman (absent)
Megan Dorko, Secretary
Ann Piccinotti, member
George Crawford, member
Dennis "Digger" O'Brien, member

OTHERS:

Pete Stainthorpe, Supervisor Liaison
Charm Crawford
Martin Barker, resident

APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 2008 MINUTES

Ms. Dorko moved, Ms. Huchler-Smith seconded and the October 2008 meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

SEPTA LETTER

Mrs. Huchler-Smith distributed a copy of a letter she drafted with input from the Board addressed to SEPTA which she will send by November 21st. The letter addressed the need for additional service within the Township and accessibility improvements. Ms. Huchler-Smith stated she found out there is no SEPTA bus service within Lower Makefield. Also, the Yardley train station has an accessible ramp up to the platform but a wheelchair cannot access the train.

HANDICAP DOORS

Mrs. Huchler-Smith stated a sign was posted at the entrance to the Township Building showing where the handicap button is located for better access.

BICYCLE AND WALKING PATHS

Mrs. Huchler-Smith stated she spoke with Ms. Linney and there is no money in the Township budget for bike path resurfacing but the Township will continue to maintain the paths as needed. The only path planned is to connect the bike path on Edgewood Road which will connect the existing path up the road a bit. Mr. Stainthorpe stated the bike paths came up at the budget meetings and there is no money this year and possibly not next year but we should continue to pursue this matter. Mr. Barker agreed with Mr. Stainthorpe that the Board should continue to request that the Township fix the failing bike paths.

QUESTIONNAIRE

Ms. Huchler-Smith stated she prepared a summary of the questionnaire results to present to the Board of Supervisors. She noted that 83 letters were sent out, 6 people passed away, 3 people moved and of the remaining 74 letters more than 43% responded. The high rate of response was due to the inclusion of the self-addressed stamped envelope and the anonymity of the questionnaire. Ms. Huchler-Smith reviewed the different types of impairments and the biggest concerns that were reported on the responses. In her report to the Board, she will go over what the Disabled Board has done to try to address some of the residents concerns.

The Board talked about the handicap parking in the Township especially in places like the Kohl's shopping center and the lack of accessibility.

Mr. Barker asked if handicap placards be color coded to make them easier to identify when they expire. He suggested that that many people may use handicap placards that might not need them. The Board agreed to possibly revisit the need for more handicap parking in certain parking lots. Ms. Huchler-Smith also noted that any businesses that have not complied with the handicap parking standards will have to if they make any renovations in the future.

HANDICAP BATHROOMS/PORT-A-POTTYS

Ms. Huchler-Smith stated she spoke with Ms. Linney about the addition of at least one accessible port-a-potty at every Township park. Ms. Linney stated that would now be a standard in her department for port-a-potty rental.

CONTINENTAL TAVERN

Ms. Huchler-Smith stated the Yardley Borough Zoning Hearing Board met last night about the request for a permit for an exterior porch and accessibility to the restaurant. She stated she will follow-up on Wednesday about the outcome of the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. O'Brien stated he has a contact at the Bucks County Intermediate Unit and is talking with them to reach out to families and children with mental and physical disabilities while following the HIPA rules to let them know about community events and services available to them.

Ms. Piccinotti stated that St. John's Catholic Church received back results of a survey they sent out to Parishioners about accessibility issues. She stated the greatest complaints were about accessibility with the doors at the church and the sound system.

Mr. Barker stated he found information about golf carts that are handicap accessible and does not know if Makefield Highlands has any of these carts. He also brought information about a handicap accessible ramp into a pool which might be useful for the Township Pool.

The Board unanimously approved to cancel the December meeting. The next scheduled meeting is Tuesday, January 27th at 7:30 p.m. in the Township Building.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Megan Dorko, Secretary