

**TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MAKEFIELD  
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2009**

The regular meeting of the Environmental Advisory Council of the Township of Lower Makefield was held in the Lower Makefield Township Municipal Building on Wednesday, January 14, 2009. Chairman Jim Bray called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

**Those present:**

**Environmental Advisory**

**Council:**

Jim Bray, member  
Laura Brandt, member  
Alan Dresser, member  
Rick Ewing, Vice-Chairman  
Geoff Goll, Chairman  
Lisa Grayson-Zygmunt, alternate  
Gail McMaster, member  
Joseph Sundeen, member

**Others:**

Terri Appleson, Supervisor Liaison

**APPROVAL OF THE DECEMBER 2008 MEETING MINUTES**

Mr. Sundeen moved and Mr. Dresser seconded and it was unanimously carried to approve the December 2008 meeting minutes with changes.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Mr. Sundeen nominated Mr. Goll as Chairman. Mr. Dresser seconded and the nomination was unanimously carried.

Mr. Goll nominated Mr. Ewing as Vice-Chairman. Ms. McMaster seconded and the nomination was unanimously carried.

**COMMENTS FROM THE NEW CHAIRMAN, MR. GOLL**

Mr. Goll stated he created a list of goals and objectives for the EAC in 2009 and expanded on those objectives such as restoration of 5-Mile Woods, modifications to the LID ordinance, hiring an EAC consultant paid through developer fees and public education about streams in the Township.

**INTRODUCTION OF THE NEW LIASION, TERRI APPLESON**

Mr. Goll introduced and welcomed Ms. Appleson as the newest member of the Board of Supervisors and the Environmental Advisory Council liaison. Ms. Appleson gave a brief

background about herself and said she is looking forward to being involved with such an environmentally forward looking group that has accomplished so much for the Township in its short tenure.

### **INTRODUCTION OF LARRY MENKES**

Mr. Menkes stated he was a member of the Warminster EAC and is now a member of the Bucks County Environmental Stewardship Council. The Stewardship Council is a new group with its focus on visiting other EAC's to see what they are doing, the issues they are faced with and suggestions for what would be most successful for the regional council. He posed the question of how could other EAC's emulate the Lower Makefield EAC. Mr. Menkes stated he is looking for a volunteer from the Lower Makefield EAC to act as an outreach coordinator and Mr. Bray volunteered.

Mr. Menkes stated he is also very involved in peak oil issues and is concerned about energy use in the region. Our region could go into crisis mode if consumption does not decline or alternative energy is not utilized. Mr. Bray suggested the Lower Makefield EAC talk about peak oil at the spring conference and invite Mr. Menkes to speak.

### **MIDDLEMISS**

Mr. Ewing stated he attended the recent Planning Commission where the Middlemiss representatives asked for a waiver on the EIA. Mr. Ewing stated the property is a good candidate for an EIA because of the water runoff. The expertise of this EAC could predict the development's impact on schools, trash and public safety services but the EIA would focus on the environmental impact especially relating to water. Mr. Goll stated he thought the Night sky views and land use lighting inventory relating to lighting is important in that more sensitive lighting should be used. Additionally, the items that address other environmental impacts and alternatives that should be evaluated include sidewalks and circulation to ensure that proposed roads and sidewalks are compatible with existing roads and sidewalks. For example, if there are no existing sidewalks, it should be discussed that new sidewalks are not needed, as it would not fit in with the rest of the neighborhood. Mr. Ewing suggested giving developers guidance of what the EAC wants.

Mr. Bray stated he received an email from Mr. Bob Helke with points for the EAC to address but does not want to address the issues until the environmental issues are addressed. Mr. Goll responded by saying the EAC needs certain items received and accordingly addressed and requests that the Planning Commission only give its approval with the condition that the EAC issues are resolved.

## **COOL CITIES**

Mr. Bray stated the Committee created a CO2 inventory and need to come up with an action plan. The Committee is looking at a grant to pay for the preparation of the action plan. He noted a local group was created, Altimate Energy that could write the action plan for the Committee for approximately \$5,000.

## **GREEN BUILDING CODE**

Mr. Bray stated it is important to lower carbon emissions in the Township and one way to do that would be to encourage green building. One thing we can do is to ask another community that has implemented a green building code to give a testimonial; especially with the economic state we are in because the Township does not want to pay any extra money to implement such a code. Mr. Menkes stated the cost to build green is very small compared to the payback from the building in the long term.

Mr. Bray suggested the Council present the green building code to the Board in late February or early March. The Council needs to decide if we want mandate or non-mandate green building code within the Township. Ms. Appleson stated she felt the code should be non-mandated and be reasonable and practicable especially since Lower Makefield would be the first Township in the state to bring this code to the table. Mr. Bray stated this is a 3-part implementation - municipal, residential then commercial implementation.

## **LMT SOLAR PROJECT**

Mr. Bray stated the Township is looking into solar installation for Township buildings. He stated he will be in touch with Mr. Gary Sheehan from SunTechnics and will report back to the Council next month.

## **GLOBAL WARMING CONFERENCE**

Mr. Sundeen stated the EAC's 3<sup>rd</sup> conference would be on April 25<sup>th</sup> in the Township building from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Mr. Bill Wolfe, architect from Princeton would talk about solar and geothermal energy. The other speaker would be Mr. Chris Lamberger from Altimate Energy and he will talk about practical things homeowners can do to combat global warming.

Ms. McMaster talked about creating a web-site for the Council with links to topics the

EAC is working on. She also suggested getting kids more involved in the Global Warming Conference. Mr. Goll asked Ms. McMaster to put together a proposal of her ideas for the next meeting. Ms. Brandt and Ms. McMaster stated they would work together to come up with creative ideas to educate the schools and students on being greener. Ms. Brandt and Mr. Sundeen stated they would both work on publicity for the conference.

### **DRAINAGE BASINS**

Mr. Bray stated that nothing is happening right now with the basins. In a few weeks he and Mr. Majewski will look at the more remote basins about 10 of them, because of resistance from the neighbors.

### **TRASH HAULING**

Mr. Dresser stated the Township received a \$7500 grant for a trash survey. The survey would study trash hauling and pickup practices within the Township. Mr. Dresser talked about how to do the survey and noted that he met with representatives from Waste Management at the trash haulers request with Mr. Fedorchak.

Mr. Bray stated he talked with Mr. Fedorchak today about the cards that were sent out to every home in the Township against the one trash hauler proposal. He stated he received an email from Mr. Truelove asking the EAC to hold off on the grant until a vote at the next Board of Supervisors meeting.

Mr. Bray asked Ms. Appleson what would happen at the next Board of Supervisors meeting with this issue. She said that it will be on the agenda and the Board will vote on utilizing the grant money for the survey. Mr. Bray asked Ms. Appleson if she would give her support at the Board meeting to spend the grant money for the survey and she replied yes.

Mr. Goll stated it should be noted the study is to determine if costs for trash collection would be lowered and if it would be environmentally beneficial for the Township to have one hauler.

### **RECYCLING CONTAINERS**

Ms. McMaster stated that she determined through her research that clear recycling containers are best for community parks and events but they are very expensive. She shopped around for better prices on clear containers and priced the containers out as high as \$400+ down to \$100+. Ms. McMaster stated her goal is to improve recycling at school and businesses in Lower Makefield,

## **LAND USE REVIEWS**

**Matrix** – Mr. Goll stated he would review this matter and prepare a response within the 30-day review period.

**Fieldstone** – Mr. Bray stated that Mr. Fedorchak was contacted by the Quaker Group to be put on the Board of Supervisors agenda to move onto the next design phase.

**Big Oak Road** – Mr. Bray reported no activity.

**Dogwood** – Mr. Bray stated the ERSAM has been requested but not received yet.

**Frankford** – Mr. Bray stated the ERSAM has been requested but not received yet.

**Harbison Tract** – Mr. Bray stated the ERSAM was requested but not received yet.

**O'Rourke Tract** – Mr. Bray stated the plan review was sent to the developer and he is awaiting a response.

**Middlemiss** – Mr. Ewing reported on the matter earlier in the meeting.

**Scammel's Corner** – Mr. Bray stated he is waiting for a response. Mr. Sundeen stated he is still concerned about the steep entrance into the development.

**Gatherings** – Mr. Dresser stated that he is working on this matter and is waiting for a response.

## **OPEN DISCUSSION**

Mr. Bray stated that Ms. Frick asked if the EAC could request a PDF file of its reviews rather than multiple hard copies from developers. Mr. Goll suggested developers give one hard copy of the plans to the Chairman then the plans could be posted on the Township web-site.

The date of the next meeting is Wednesday, February 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Geoff Goll, Chairman