

**TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MAKEFIELD
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 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, February 11, 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 (absent)

Others:

Terri Appleson, Supervisor Liaison
Gail Stringer, resident
John Heilferty, 5-Mile Woods Naturalist

APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 2009 MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Bray moved and Mr. Ewing seconded and it was unanimously carried to approve the January 2009 meeting minutes with changes.

5-MILE WOODS

Mr. John Heilferty, Naturalist at 5-Mile Woods was present at the meeting. He stated that 5-Mile Woods has been severely impacted by deer and invasive plants and would like to work with the EAC to develop solutions to control the degradation of 5-Mile Woods.

Mr. Heilferty stated that 5-Mile Woods is a Township owned facility purchased in the 1980's because of its environmental uniqueness. The Railroad Company who owned the property was an absentee owner and Township residents secretly used the property for recreation. The residents started a grass roots effort to convince the Township to purchase the property, which it did and is solely used as a nature preserve. 5-Mile Woods is unique because it is located on the geographical divide of the coastal plain and the Piedmont fall line.

Mr. Heilferty stated the biggest concern for 5-Mile Woods is the deer, development of adjacent properties, making the property accessible and money to do things. Mr. Heilferty said whatever decision the Township makes on deer management, which he may not agree upon as his opinion or others; he will follow that direction as a Township employee. He stated his opinion is that deer should be managed by sharpshooters rather than by bow and arrow. Mr. Heilferty stated he created fenced-in test areas to keep the deer out and those areas have been reforested without the deer.

Mr. Goll talked about goals of having studies in areas that are restricted to deer and become reforested. Mr. Heilferty stated the deer are a Township-wide problem and we should deal with the deer throughout the entire Township not just at 5-Mile Woods.

Mr. Heilferty offered to come back in April and give the EAC an update as well as schedule a tour of 5-Mile Woods for the Council.

YEAR-END REVIEW

Mr. Bray stated for the last 3 years he has written up an EAC review of completed projects and goals for new projects. Mr. Dresser made a suggestion for the Council to create a historic tree ordinance or to be a Tree City Township. Mr. Bray emailed the Year-End Review to the Council members.

BUCKS BEAUTIFUL

Mrs. Brandt stated the Bucks Beautiful event is Friday, March 20th through Sunday March 22nd at Delaware Valley College. The EAC has been invited to have a booth at the show and she asked for volunteers for the booth on Saturday and Sunday.

EAC LIST SERVE

Mr. Bray stated that Mr. Sundeen has 400 names in his database obtained from prior conferences. He noted it is very labor intensive to contact people with the present database. Mr. Sundeen found out there is a service that can send out emails to 500 addresses at a cost of \$9.95/month. The EAC just needs to write the body of the email and send it to the list serve company to make announcements about upcoming events or information/projects the EAC is working on. Mr. Bray stated it costs \$1 extra per month

to add 100 additional email addresses. Mr. Fedorchak has given his approval for the EAC to secure this service.

SALDO ORDINANCE REVISIONS

Mr. Bray stated he and Mr. Majewski would talk about changes to the ordinance and to create more performance standards that would discourage underground basins and require rain gardens. Mrs. Grayson-Zygmunt asked how do we formally get the ordinance reviewed to make changes. Mr. Goll stated he would ask Mr. Fedorchak, but it would probably need to be advertised first then approved by the Bucks County Planning Commission.

COOL CITIES UPDATE

Mrs. Grayson-Zygmunt stated that she has nothing to report. Mr. Bray stated as far as the action plan, the Committee agreed the plan should be a more generic plan rather than specific to this Township to benefit other municipalities that want to follow Lower Makefield's lead.

GREEN BUILDING CODE

Mr. Ewing stated that Upper Makefield is interested in what our Township is doing and he shared a draft of Lower Makefield's proposal to get them started. He invited the Upper Makefield EAC to the upcoming Board of Supervisors presentation on the Green Building Code. Mr. Ewing stated he has not added anything to what has already been written and asked when the EAC should make its presentation to the Board of Supervisors.

Mrs. Grayson-Zygmunt mentioned a workshop on February 24th about Green Building Code and suggested the Upper Makefield EAC attend the workshop to help them with their Green Building Code proposal. Mrs. Grayson-Zygmunt will forward the workshop information to Mr. Ewing. She suggested that the Lower Makefield EAC should have an educational lecture about Green Building to get information out to the public and generate a positive response to the idea.

DRAINAGE BASINS

Mr. Bray stated within a month he would have a meeting with Mr. Majewski to look at some of the basins including the one near the library. Several basins when created were setup to be natural but were mowed over the years and we could add those basins to the

original 10 basins. Mr. Goll and Mrs. Grayson-Zygmunt talked about educating the residents about the basins and other issues to get positive rather than negative feedback.

GLOBAL WARMING CONFERENCE

Mr. Sundeen will send out an email to the Council members with signups for jobs at the conference. The conference will be on Saturday, April 25th from 8 am to 12 pm. Ms. McMaster offered to volunteer for the day of conference and could develop a website for the EAC. She suggested an art contest for the presentation portion of the conference. She also suggested inviting the High School environmental club to the conference. Ms. McMaster stated she would contact the schools about the art contest.

RECYCLING CONTAINERS

Ms. McMaster stated she did a lot of research and her recommendation is for the clear containers. She forwarded her recommendation to Mr. Fedorchak but he had already purchased containers that were not clear. Mr. Goll asked Ms. McMaster to find out how many containers were purchased and where they will be placed. He asked if the Township could purchase at least one clear container and Ms. McMaster stated she would ask.

SOLAR PROJECT

Mr. Bray stated he met with Mr. Fedorchak and Gary Sheehan about the solar proposal in the energy audit. The key to solar projects is where you get the money to fund the project. The Township is looking into a leasing agreement for the solar system and explained how the leasing works. Mr. Bray stated they are looking at a system that could surpass the Township's needs and may talk with some state officials to see if they can assist the Township.

Mr. Bray stated the original proposal was for a 1-kilowatt system and will now get 13-kilowatt system and will have an interface educational system. The project should be completed in the first half of this year.

EAC EDUCATION

Ms. McMaster stated she is working to develop a program of outreach to educate Pennsbury students by integrating curriculum relating to environmental advances the community and Township have made. Her intention is to present this program through assemblies in the school. She will prepare a presentation and present it to the Council at a later meeting.

LAND USE REVIEWS

Big Oak – No activity to report.

Dogwood – No activity to report.

Capstone – Final plans were received. The Council was asked to send their comments to Mr. Goll by the end of February. Mr. Goll will summarize the comments and send them to Mr. Majewski. The layout was initially approved.

Fieldstone – This matter will be presented to the Board of Supervisors on the 18th and they will ask to move forward with the plans. It was noted the pretreatment does not meet Township requirements. Mr. Bray stated when the Board of Supervisors reviews this matter the project manager for the EAC should be at the meeting.

Harbison – The ERSAM has been requested but not received yet.

O'Rourke – The EAC is awaiting a response.

Middlemiss – Mr. Bray sent out an email about a possible survey of the actual area of the burial of bodies to determine the cemetery boundaries. Mr. Ewing stated he did not receive an answer addressing the Councils' concerns.

Scammel's Corner – No activity to report.

Matrix – Mr. Goll stated he went on a site visit of the property. He noted there were no wetlands but he has concerns about the ditch adjacent to Oxford Valley Road.

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS, LECTURES AND MEETINGS

- February 15 - Native Plant Ordinance at Bowman's Hill (Mr. Bray will be a speaker)
- February 16 - Environmental Forum presented by Henry DiSilva at the Lower Makefield Township Building
- February 17 - Frankford Hospital Hearing at the LMT Zoning Hearing Board Meeting
- February 24 - Green Building Ordinance Lecture presented by the US Environmental Protection Agency in Wyncote, PA
- February 25 - 2nd Environmental Forum presented by Henry DiSilva on Environmental Legislation at the George School, Newtown, PA (Mr. Bray will be a speaker)
- March 14 - Annual Southeastern PA EAC Conference at Villanova University (Mr. Bray will speak about LMT model for sustainability)
- March 16 - Warminster EAC Meeting (Mr. Bray will be speaking)

March 20 –

March 22 Bucks Beautiful, LMT EAC booth at Delaware Valley College

The date of the next meeting is Wednesday, March 11th at 7:30 p.m.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Geoff Goll, Chairman