

**TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MAKEFIELD
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 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, March 11, 2009. Chairman Geoff Goll 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 (absent)
Gail McMaster, member
Joseph Sundeen, member

Others:

Terri Appleson, Supervisor Liaison
Gail Stringer, resident
Tom Wells, Thomas G. Wells Construction, LLC

APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 2009 MEETING MINUTES

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

ENERGY AUDIT

Tom Wells, builder and Certified Residential Auditor was present at the meeting to talk about residential energy audits. Mr. Bray stated he knows Mr. Wells' wife from the Farmer's Market and he asked Mr. Wells to come to the meeting tonight to talk about the opportunity to reduce energy consumption through a home audit.

Mr. Wells stated he lives in Yardley Borough and is on the Yardley Borough Planning Commission. He has been a builder for more than 20 years and in the last few years has been more interested in building energy efficient additions and can target where most energy loss is in the home through an audit.

Mr. Wells explained an energy audit is an analysis of where a house is leaky. The process begins with an auditor sitting down with the homeowners to identify cold areas in

their home then they analyze their energy bills. The testing is accomplished through a blower door test noting that a tight house would have a one-third-air exchange of per hour. The test will identify leaky areas in the house that can easily be corrected with caulk or foam insulation. He also suggested an insulation combustion safety test on the home's furnace or boiler to make sure it is running at the efficiency it should and it properly drafts.

Mr. Wells stated the actual audit takes a total of 8-12 hours to get results and approximately 7 days to receive a report. The report will prioritize what energy loss issues should be addressed first.

Mr. Wells stated there is a Pennsylvania program called Keystone Help, which is offering very low interest loans up to \$35,000 for energy efficient remodeling. They also offer a credit of \$325 to offset the cost of an energy audit using a contractor on the Pennsylvania approved list. He stated that 75% of the loan would need to be allocated to energy efficient changes. Mr. Wells stated that tax credits are still available for energy efficient additions such as windows and doors.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Anna Kitces, 1015 Yorkshire Drive stated she is taking a sustainable communities course and part of the course asks her to report on sustainable initiatives in her community and she would like to listen in on the meeting tonight to compile some data for her class.

Mr. Chris Leyenberger, certified architect noted with the Black Rock culvert work there is a potential bike path in an area that was constructed and could be marked as a bike path with asphalt. The path could be continued up the road to Yardley-Morrisville Road. Mr. Leyenberger showed the Council pictures of the temporary bike path area. Mr. Goll asked if Black Rock is a state road and Mr. Leyenberger replied it is a Township road. Mr. Leyenberger stated the Township is planning a study for a bike path in the amount of \$26,000 and said that money should be applied to construct the actual bike path. He asked Morrissey, the construction company that constructed the culvert, how much it would cost to pave the temporary area and they replied \$10,000. Mr. Leyenberger asked for the Council's support and noted that time is of the essence.

GOVERNOR'S EXCELLENCE AWARD

Mrs. Mazzitelli stated that she submitted the 2009 Governor's Environmental Excellence Award application on behalf of the Township with Mr. Bray's input. The application cited the EAC and Township's work to implement the Cool Cities initiative. The awardees will be notified the first week of April and the awards dinner will be on April 22, 2009.

STORMWATER NPDES

Mr. Goll stated the Township is updating the NPDES permit and additional requirements are needed to update the permit. Part of the requirement is to provide public education. Mr. Goll stated he emailed Ms. Grayson-Zygmunt to ask her if she would help with public education and integrate education into the website. He stated they could tie in the basin work in the Township to fulfill part of the requirement. Mr. Goll stated this is a legally binding permit on the Township for storm water recharging. Mr. Majewski will attend the next EAC meeting to give an update on the NPDES permit application.

EAC LISTSERVE

Mr. Sundeen stated that Mr. Fedorchak gave his approval for the Township to pay for the list serve company. The service will send out monthly newsletters the Council prepares to the EAC's mailing list with news about meetings and upcoming events. This service will cut down on the amount of paper the Council sends out. Mr. Fedorchak will review any communication prior to be sent out.

COOL CITIES UPDATE

Mr. Bray stated the Chairman of Cool Cities, John Ackler was in Florida and just returned. The Cool Cities Committee will meet soon to create an action plan this year, noting the inventory was completed.

GREEN BUILDING CODE

Mr. Ewing stated that Mr. Bray and Mrs. Grayson-Zygmunt attended some recent Green Building Code workshops and he would like to meet with them to make changes to the code draft. Mr. Bray suggested meeting with Lorna Rosenberg and Spenser Finch to ask them to speak to the Board of Supervisors and invite a representative from Cranston, New Jersey to talk about their Township's success with the Green Building Code. Mr.

Bray stated he attended a workshop in Wyncote and noted the EPA would give Lower Makefield a lot of support with this endeavor.

Mr. Bray stated he spoke with Bucky Closser who advised him that putting the Green Building Code into effect should be relatively easy. It could be done by resolution or code, noting that a resolution would be easier and the Township could mandate Green Building to the extent it would be reasonable and practicable, built to LEED standards and the Township could choose to certify or not.

Mr. Ewing stated he would amend the code and Mr. Ewing would invite a representative from Cranston, New Jersey, Lorna Rosenberg and Spenser Finch to attend the next Board of Supervisors meeting.

DRAINAGE BASINS

Mr. Bray stated he was supposed to meet with Mr. Fedorchak, Mr. Majewski and Mr. Hoffmeister but they did not meet yet because of the weather.

GLOBAL WARMING CONFERENCE

Mr. Sundeen passed out a tentative agenda for the conference. The theme of the conference is “We get it, now what?” what can individuals do to combat Global Warming. Mr. Sundeen talked about items that need to be done before the conference such as emailing the flyer to the database, publicity, and set-up day of the conference.

RECYCLING CONTAINERS

Ms. McMaster stated she visited Macclesfield Park and noted there are quite a few recycling cans there, which are not secured but are sturdy. She noted that other cans would be placed around the Township and would be used at special events.

Mr. Dresser stated the Hazardous Waste Recycling day would be held at the Lower Makefield Corporate Center on Township Line Road on May 2nd.

SOLAR PROJECT

Mr. Bray stated he met with the Township engineers to work on the solar project with outside financing. He stated that Pennsylvania would come out with its official rules in early April. The key to financing will be for these outside sources to get money from the many sources available with a depreciation option.

EAC EDUCATION

Ms. McMaster stated she re-worked her proposal and had a meeting with Ms. Zervos at the Pennsbury Partnership. She stated the EAC has now joined the Pennsbury Partnership, which affords Pennsbury Partnership grant opportunities for curriculum about environmental education.

Mr. Bray asked Ms. McMaster if she finished her Power point presentation and she said it is a work in progress. Mr. Bray said that Board of Supervisor approval is needed on this before moving forward.

5-MILE WOODS

Mr. Goll reported that he did not have any new information. He heard that the Morris Arboretum is interested in 5-Mile Woods and its native plants and they will be contacting 5-Mile Woods to possibly study the plants.

NATIVE PLANT INDEX

Mr. Bray stated only a few communities have a Native Plant Ordinance and he is proud that Lower Makefield is one of them. He with the input of others created a Native Plant Index for the Township. He suggested selling the book for a donation of \$5.

BUCKS BEAUTIFUL

Ms. Brandt stated Bucks Beautiful would be held at Delaware Valley College from March 20th through March 22nd. Ms. Brandt asked the Council members to sign up to sit at the booth. Ms. Brandt and Mr. Bray talked about what would be displayed at the EAC booth such as posters and pictures on award and accomplishments.

Ms. Brandt stated that she applied for a 50/50 match grant for the proposed rain garden at the Township Building.

LAND USE REVIEWS

Big Oak – Mr. Goll stated the plans were reviewed and asked for comments from the Council by March 27th. Mr. Dresser noted the Council submitted comments but never received comments from the builder, but he would recheck to see if anything came in. Mr. Bray asked Ms. Brandt if she looked at the plant list and she said no but she would.

Dogwood – The ERSAM was received.

Capstone – It was noted the EIA was in conformance. Mr. Goll stated he did not respond yet. Mr. Bray asked Mr. Goll to email his comments to him.

Fieldstone – Mr. Dresser stated Fieldstone made a great presentation before the Board of Supervisors. The Board is very concerned about the landfill. Mr. Bray stated the DEP signed off on the report but the Board is still concerned.

Frankford – This matter is on the March 17th Zoning Hearing Board agenda. Mr. Sundeen stated this matter is going through the Traffic Committee and it will be postponed on the Zoning Hearing Agenda again.

Harbison – No activity.

O'Rourke – The EAC is awaiting a response.

Middlemiss – Mr. Ewing said he sent an email to the Historical Commission and is awaiting their response to a possible dig at the cemetery. Mr. Goll said an EIA should be done even if there are only 3 houses.

Scammel's Corner – No activity to report.

Matrix – A bank and pharmacy are proposed for the site.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Mr. Bray stated he would be speaking at the Pennsylvania Convention Center about the Environmental Steward Award.

Mr. Dresser stated he would like the tree ordinance on the next EAC meeting agenda. He has come across an existing inventory of historic trees that will be the basis for the ordinance. Ms. Brandt stated that Bucks County is working on a tree ordinance for the county. The question was asked what trees should be preserved and Ms. Brandt and Mr. Dresser replied Heritage Trees.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Geoff Goll, Chairman