

**TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MAKEFIELD  
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, JULY 8, 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, July 8, 2009. Chairman Geoff Goll called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

**Those present:**

**Environmental Advisory**

**Council:**

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

**Others:**

Jason Simon, Supervisor Liaison  
Gayle Stringer, resident

**APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 10, 2009 MEETING MINUTES**

Mr. Ewing moved and Mr. Dresser seconded and the June meeting minutes were unanimously approved with changes.

**WELCOME TO THE NEW EAC LIAISON – JASON SIMON**

Mr. Goll welcomed Mr. Jason Simon as the new Township Supervisor and EAC liaison. Mr. Simon introduced himself and gave his professional background and said he was looking forward to working with the EAC the rest of the year.

The Council talked about the importance of communication and oversight with the Board of Supervisors on all matters between all Township boards and commissions.

**RESIGNATION OF GAYLE MCMASTER**

Mr. Goll announced that Ms. McMaster resigned from the Council. He stated he was upset with Ms. McMaster because she has done things in the past representing the Council without notice or approval from the Council of what she is doing. Mr. Goll asked Ms. Stringer if she would be interested in submitting her resume to become a Council member since she attends many of our meetings.

## **BUILDING CODE PRESENTATION**

Mr. Ewing stated he met with the Township lawyer from Curtin & Heefner and the ordinance has been drafted which he sent to the Council members to review. He asked the Council to send their comments to him then following any last revisions, the ordinance would be presented to the Board of Supervisors. Following approval by the Board of Supervisors, the public will have the opportunity to comment after the County signs off on the ordinance.

## **PAWC GRANT**

Mr. Goll noted the Township received a check in the amount \$1,000 from a PAWC grant Mr. Majewski applied for. Mr. Fedorchak and Mr. Majewski will allocate the money to the storm sewer labels and will print 2,000 pamphlets educating the public on storm water management.

## **SHADE TREE COMMITTEE**

Mr. Goll stated the Township wants to become a “Tree City USA” and one of the requirements is to create a Shade Tree Committee first. Mrs. Brandt went over some of the requirements to become a Tree City including Arbor Day observance; a community forestry program, enacting a tree care ordinance and creating a shade tree committee.

Mr. Dresser stated he found out the species of the large tree at Patterson Farm near the Brown/Janney house is a Cucumber Magnolia. That particular tree is the largest tree in the state and could be the largest in the country.

## **SOLAR INSTALLATION**

Mr. Goll stated the solar panels were installed on the roof of the Township Building today with the metering equipment affixed to the wall outside the main doors to the offices.

## **BUCKS BEAUTIFUL GRANT**

Mrs. Brandt stated the planting as a result of the Bucks Beautiful Grant the Township received would be done in the August.

## **FALL TREE PLANTING**

Mrs. Brandt stated the Township is on a list to receive free trees from Tree-Vitalize. She will receive an update in the fall if the Township will be the recipient of free trees.

## **SCHOOL EDUCATION**

Mr. Goll noted that Ms. McMaster was the lead on School Education and resigned but the Council should continue with environmental education in the schools. Mr. Dresser stated that Jeanne Bray might be interested in helping carry out this program.

## **PLANT STEWARDSHIP**

Mr. Goll stated the Township received a \$3,500 bid for a plant index to be completed by ecologists at 5-Mile Woods. He stated the plan was to inventory the spring plants but the survey will start this summer to get a baseline. He received a letter from the Traffic Committee requesting that any and all deer accident or near-miss accident data be collected. Mr. Simon suggested using the Police Department to collect this data, as he believes it already exists in their records. Mr. Goll stated he wrote a letter supporting the data collection.

## **DRAINAGE BASINS**

Mr. Goll stated he started seeding the drainage basins located at Dolington, Farmview and Fairfield to grow a wildflower/grass mixture in basins that will no longer be cut.

## **EMAIL NEWSLETTER UPDATE**

Tabled until the next meeting.

## **COOL CITIES UPDATE**

Mrs. Grayson-Zygmunt gave Mr. Goll a written update to report to the Council. Mr. Goll stated at the July 14<sup>th</sup> Cool Cities meeting the Committee will complete a skeletal Action Plan for reducing green house gases in the Township. The Committee feels strongly that implementation of the Plan and attainment of Cool Cities' goals will not occur without broad-based community support. Over 90% of the Township's consumption comes from residential sources. The Committee is planning to engage a large and diverse group to fill in the details of the plan. The group will have three meetings in the Fall and will hopefully complete the plan by year-end. Implementation of the plan will begin in 2010.

The Committee plans to use a collaborative facilitation process to assure that all points of view are voiced and considered in a strong commitment to the final plan. Newspaper articles will run concurrently with the development of the plan and the community will be encouraged to participate via email or in person There will be training for that process that may include other communities, if the Committee can find funding.

The Committee has planned three community education sessions for the Fall and would like to involve school children in a number of ways.

Mr. Simon stated the Council's work is commendable but how asked does this help the consumers. He suggested the Council tie all of their efforts together to get the message out to the public to make a difference. He suggested giving an overview of why all of these things are being done not from the view of the Council but from the general public's view to get them on board. Mr. Simon suggested sending the message that the Council is saving the Township money through its environmental stewardship. Mrs. Brandt suggested putting a section in the newsletter about how much money the Council has saved the Township to date and the Council agreed to start to compile that information.

Mr. Simon excused himself from the meeting.

## **RECYCLING**

Mr. Dresser stated he is planning to let the residents know about the residential garbage survey in the next newsletter. He is hoping to send out the commercial surveys soon.

Mr. Dresser stated there is a new County agreement with Otters but the Township can't sign it because the Township can't force the trash haulers to bring their recycled material to Otters. The Township will lose a significant amount of income from this new agreement. The Council suggested sending an email to Mr. Simon about the significant loss of income stream because of the new County agreement and the benefit of one hauler in the Township allowing the Township to insist compliance to bring recycled material to Otters.

## **LID ORDINANCE**

Mr. Goll stated any modifications have to go out for public comment. He stated he has not worked on the ordinance because the Council was focusing on the green building code. He will get the ordinance information to Mr. Majewski.

## **LAND USE REVIEWS**

**Village Market** – Mr. Goll stated he would send out a new letter to Mr. Majewski stating that in this specific instance the work is approved. Mr. Goll stated the plan is to add an additional drive for circulation and the addition of twenty (20) Scarlet Oaks for storm water management. Mrs. Brandt and Mr. Ewing suggested diversifying the tree species.

**Big Oak** – Awaiting a reply.

**Dogwood** – Mr. Dresser stated he would make comments to the plans. He noted that he didn't receive the storm water management plan yet.

**Gatherings** – Awaiting a reply.

**Frankford** – The EIS was submitted before the Zoning Hearing Board meetings. No other activity.

**Harbison** – No activity.

**O'Rourke** – Approved – matter closed.

**Middlemiss** – No activity.

**Scammel's Corner** – No activity.

**Matrix** – Approved – matter closed.

**Harris Farm** – The owner is looking to develop the front end of the property. The EAC awaits the ERSAM.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm in the Township Building.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Geoff Goll, Chairman