

**TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MAKEFIELD
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 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, September 9, 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)
Joseph Sundeen, member

Others:

Jason Simon, Supervisor Liaison
Gayle Stringer, resident

APPROVAL OF THE AUGUST 9, 2009 MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Sundeen moved and Mr. Bray seconded and the June meeting minutes were unanimously approved with changes.

GREEN BUILDING CODE

Mr. Ewing stated there were some small changes to the code that Mr. Truelove's office would be making. He stated the Supervisors were open to expand the code to commercial building with incentives. Mr. Ewing will brainstorm with other members to come up with ideas to expand the code to include commercial building with incentives.

Mr. Goll thanked Mr. Simon and the Supervisors for discussing and adopting the Green Building Code.

COMMUNITY PRIDE DAY

Mr. Goll said the EAC's table had a great turnout and received a considerable number of people who signed up for the mailing list. Mr. Bray stated he was very disappointed that the Township recycling cans were not put out at the event, noting he did not see any. Mr. Dresser suggested the EAC members put out the recycling containers and more trashcans at Community Day next year.

FALL TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

Mr. Goll said he drafted an article for the Township Newsletter and sent the draft to the Council to review. In the article, he wrote about the Council's accomplishments and how the Council has saved the Township a significant amount of the money through its projects.

CONSTRUCTION SITE VISITS

Mr. Goll suggested Mr. Majewski give the EAC construction site visits on some of the projects the EAC has approved. Mr. Simon suggested expanding on the idea and the EAC go on the road tour with the Supervisors and Park and Recreation Department. Mr. Goll suggested visiting a traditional mowed basin in the Township and visit the natural basin at Sunrise, which is lush to show that basins that are naturalized are beautiful. Mr. Simon mentioned that residents complained that the basin near their development was being cut and the residents want the basin to be naturalized with a vegetation cover. He will forward the complainant's name and email address to the Council to contact.

PROJECT UPDATES

Solar – The Township was not awarded the PEDDA grant it submitted for the solar project at Patterson Farm. Mrs. Mazzitelli stated the Township would continue to pursue other avenues to fund solar projects in the Township.

Bucks Beautiful Grant - Mrs. Brandt stated the plants would be installed next week after the area is cleaned and prepped. She stated money from the grant would be used to purchase plants for the planting area.

Fall Tree Planting – Mr. Goll stated this should be tabled until next spring. He said this project should be revisited in the spring because of budget constraints.

School Education – Mr. Goll stated he is looking for speakers from the Council to talk to students at the local schools. Someone said that Mrs. Bray might be interested in speaking.

Plant Stewardship Index – Mr. Goll stated that Mr. Fedorchak gave his authorization to proceed we just need him to execute the contract. Mr. Goll stated this is baseline survey of the plant diversity in 5-Mile Woods to determine the deer's affect on the plants at the preserve.

Drainage Basins – Mr. Goll stated the Quarry Hill basin is doing very well. Mr. Bray stated many of the basins in the pilot were seeded, are growing and look great. The seed mixture produces vegetation that will hold water better and will save the Township money and it better for the environment in the long run.

Email Newsletter Update – Mrs. Brandt stated she would send out the latest edition of the newsletter in the next week. She noted some upcoming events are the Council's table with the Yardley EAC at Harvest Day on September 26th and the lecture and plant sale at the Township Building on Saturday, October 3rd.

LAND USE REVIEWS

Lutheran Church – Mr. Goll stated he would send a letter to the parties involved on this matter.

Dogwood Drive – Mr. Dresser said he created a letter addressing about five comments and will send it out to the developer.

Flower's Tract - Mr. Majewski, Mr. Steve Berger, Ms. Lisa Franciotti, Mr. Bray and Mr. Dresser met for a site visit today. Mr. Bray stated that water and traffic are an issue at this development. The development is under an overlay district allowing for greater density than normally allowed in the Township. Mr. Bray said he has the same comments from this visit as he did a year ago such as asking for LEED certification. He stated the comments are due on September 21st. Mr. Goll said he talked with Mr. Berger about vaulted basins rather than stone filled underground basins.

Mr. Dresser stated there was a study about a regional basin in the area of this development. The idea is to feed the runoff from this development into the CVS detention basin and the Patterson basin. Mr. Bray stated most of the trees at the Flower's Tract site would be removed. Mr. Goll and the Council talked about their concerns about the development especially storm water issues. Mr. Bray stated there would be an issue with the proposed houses near I-95 and the noise. Mr. Goll noted an EIA must be done.

Edgewood Crossing – Mr. Dresser stated he received the preliminary plans. Mr. Bray stated he looked at the plant list and they only have to use 25% native plants because the native plant ordinance went into effect before these plans were received.

Big Oak – Plans for this development were presented to the Planning Commission on June 8th and there is nothing new to report.

Middlemiss – No report. Waiting for an abbreviated EIA.

Scammel's Corner – No report.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Mr. Ewing stated he received a comment from a resident that the bow hunt scheduled to take place at 5 Mile Woods for 8 weeks is very long. Mr. Simon stated there is a minimum requirement for the length of the hunt by the Gaming Commission.

Mr. Simon passed on news that a Township Police Officer passed away in a car crash this week and the viewing is on Thursday and the funeral is on Friday.

Mrs. Stringer distributed copies of a Philadelphia magazine on green news in the area. She also gave the Council information on a green fair coming up.

Mr. Bill Arrowood from Big Smack Productions was present at the meeting and told the Council that his production company is interested in shooting footage of Patterson Farm for a Biography Channel national campaign. He is looking to film a variety of buildings with open space and thought Patterson Farm was ideal. Mr. Simon gave his email address to Mr. Arrowood and asked him to forward the information to him so he could speak with Mr. Fedorchak about this opportunity.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 14th 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