

**TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MAKEFIELD
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2010**

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, October 13, 2010. Chairman Ewing called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Those present:

**Environmental Advisory
Council:**

Jim Bray, Member (absent)
Laura Brandt, Member
Alan Dresser, Vice-Chairman
Rick Ewing, Chairman
Geoff Goll, Member (absent)
Joseph Sundeen, Member
Gail Stringer, Member

Others:

Pete Stainthorpe, Supervisor Liaison
Bill Setzer, Morrisville EAC

BIRDTOWN PRESENTATION

Mr. Steve Saffier from Audubon at Home PA presented a video about the Birdtown USA certification program. The program will aid in creating a healthy environment at home, in the community and improve the quality of life through its practices and save money by implementing the program.

Mr. Saffier said if the Township takes the Birdtown pledge, Audubon would train six Township volunteers so those people could assist homeowners with getting on board with Birdtown practices.

Mr. John Rogers said if the Township joins the program, the Audubon provides a website to homeowners to enter data to help them be better stewards of the environment like planting more trees, turning off television sets and computer strips at night. This is part of the purchase into the Audubon program. Mr. Ewing asked how much is the purchase into the program and Mr. Saffier replied \$850.

APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 2010 MEETING MINUTES

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

COOL CITIES UPDATE

Ms. Stringer noted that Cool Cities has been losing members over the last few months but the Committee has been able to put together the sustainability plan and when complete, will bring the plan to the EAC for their comments and changes. Then the plan would be presented to the Board of

Supervisors to approve. Mr. Ewing asked Ms. Stringer when the EAC could expect the plan. She said she expects to receive portions of the plan from the Cool Cities members by the end of this month and plans to present the plan to the EAC in November.

Mr. Ewing asked Ms. Stringer if they need new members. Ms. Stringer said when the Cool Cities Committee is getting ready to present the plan for implementation she would like to have more members.

BASIN UPDATE

This topic was tabled until the next meeting.

LAND DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION COMPLETENESS PROCESS

Mr. Dresser said this issue was on the Board of Supervisors meeting agenda last week. He and Ms. Torbert asked for a change to the Township ordinance, which would require the applicant to submit all documentation in one submittal. Mr. Truelove stated if the change is made he believes the applicants won't want to spend any additional money on any additional documents and would limit the exchange between the Township and the applicant. Mr. Truelove said he and the Supervisors are still reviewing the issue. Mr. Dresser said he would write another email to the Supervisors, Mr. Truelove and Mr. Fedorchak reiterating the EAC's position.

HARVEST DAY

Mrs. Brandt said they had very good traffic at the Council's table at Harvest Day and received quite a few signups for the newsletter list. She passed out information on sustainability and recycling.

LAND DEVELOPMENT REVIEWS

Dogwood – Mr. Dresser said he attended the last Planning Commission meeting with the Dogwood development on the agenda. He said the applicant reduced the number of homes from 10 to 5 homes and removed the aboveground basin and will be using an infiltration basin. The applicant also plans to realign the main road in the development.

Toll Brothers (Matrix/Octagon) – Mr. Goll was absent and could not report on this matter. Mr. Dresser and Mr. Stainthorpe mentioned the applicant has submitted a formal change to the plans, which is being reviewed by the Township.

OPEN DISCUSSION

The Council discussed the Birdtown presentation. Mr. Ewing said he is not sure what the Council's role would be in the Birdtown program and how it benefits the Township. Mr. Sundeen talked about how landscapers and developers have resisted the native plant ordinance and if the Township chooses to adopt the Birdtown program, suggested calling it a Habitat Enhancement Program. Mr. Ewing noted the Audubon charges \$850 to signup for the program and did not realize there was a

charge involved. Mr. Stainthorpe said he is in favor of encouraging people to do these things rather than mandate programs and is favor of this program.

Mr. Bill Setzer suggested sending out a survey to the database members asking if people would be interested in utilizing the Birdtown/Audubon at Home program.

Mr. Dresser said the soccer tournament took place this past weekend and very little recycling was done. Mr. Dresser said Ms. Linney would work harder to encourage the participants to recycle more at the next event.

Mrs. Brandt said the Township received an award for the Bucks Beautiful garden she created in front of the Township. She also noted a schoolyard habitat is in the planning stages at Makefield Elementary. Mrs. Brandt is working with Mrs. Mazzitelli, Mr. Bray and Mr. Tom Guest, 3rd Grade Teacher at Makefield to design the garden and will ask Mr. Saffier for his expertise as well. The garden will include a composting area, butterfly garden, native plant area and vegetable garden area.

Ms. Stringer asked if anyone is scheduled to speak at an EAC meeting in the near future about Marcellus Shale. Mr. Dresser said at the last meeting, the Council talked about inviting Representative Santarsiero and Congressman McIlhinney to speak at a meeting after the November elections. Ms. Stringer noted if they speak they are influenced by the tax that would be imposed if passed.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 10^h at 7:30 pm in the Township Building.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Rick Ewing, Chairman