

**TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MAKEFIELD
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 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, December 8, 2010. Chairman Ewing called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Those present:

**Environmental Advisory
Council:**

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

Others:

Pete Stainthorpe, Supervisor Liaison (absent)
Alejandro Lewadowski, Bucks County Community
College Student

APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 2010 MEETING MINUTES

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

LAND DEVELOPMENT REVIEWS

Regency at Yardley - Mr. Goll said he has questions for Ms. Frick regarding this application. He asked would the EAC report be included in the comments to the applicant and could the EAC have a meeting with the applicant's engineer. Mr. Bray explained to Ms. Lewadowski that the EAC is a land use review board. Mr. Goll said that Ms. Frick said the comments submitted by the EAC would not be a condition of approval of the application. Mr. Goll said he has always been very concerned about basements in this development. He said the original Matrix plan did not include basements. Mr. Goll said he asked Ms. Frick if the applicant was asking for waivers for stormwater issues and she replied no. Mr. Goll said basements would be allowed on a case-by-case basis. The basements will overwhelm the sump pumps and would cause problems for the units next to the houses with basements. Mr. Goll said that he would be meeting with the applicant's engineer along with one of the engineers from his firm who specializes in infiltration to talk about these issues.

CVS/PNC – Mr. Goll said the basin on the property is not functioning well and he has addressed the infiltration issues with Jim Majewski and the applicant. Mr. Goll explained what infiltration was to Ms. Lewadowski. Mr. Goll said the same BMP types were used to manage the stormwater for CVS/PNC and the water is draining the way it should be but it is taking a lot longer than it should. The rain gardens are also holding water for 7 days and should drain in 96 hours. Mr. Goll said he also determined that the rain gardens were not built to the size they were approved at.

Ms. Stringer asked how the Regency development was approved before seeing the EAC's report. Mr. Goll said the EAC is part of the PA municipal code of review, the EAC is only an advisory board therefore our comments are not always considered.

Freeman's Farm - Mr. Dresser said the property is located off of Big Oak Road, is 18 acres and 14 new homes are proposed. Mr. Dresser asked if we should have a link in our comment letter to a 5-minute video about a development in PA that greatly limited stormwater runoff with LID techniques and Mr. Bray replied yes. Mr. Bray asked at what level would the water be contained at on the property. Mr. Dresser said to the 2-year storm runoff volume would double. Mr. Bray said if the applicant can't infiltrate the way they are supposed to they would have to make the plans work in accordance with the BMP manual.

Mr. Dresser said there is a wetlands issue with the property wherein the delineation has expired. The applicant must get approval then renew and re-delineate the wetlands. Mr. Dresser said he would send out the comments today.

COOL CITIES

Ms. Stringer said she gave the draft plan to Mr. Bray to review and he gave her his comments. She explained what Cool Cities is to Ms. Lewadowski. Mr. Bray said that Ms. Stringer did an outstanding job putting the plan together from the 20+ people who wrote different components of the plan. He said he reviewed the plan and edited it a bit. Mr. Bray said he talked with Mr. Fedorchak about the plan and Mr. Fedorchak said the title and introduction of the plan are very important to sell the plan to the Board of Supervisors and the economics of the plan should be stressed. Mr. Bray said he would like to talk with Mr. Stainthorpe about the plan and how to convince the rest of the Board to accept the plan, which would ultimately benefit the Township. Mr. Goll asked if the plan will cost the Township any money and Mr. Bray replied no and it could make the Township money.

Mr. Ewing said the Council would talk further about the project in January and ask about some of the challenges to the plan to be ready to present to the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Ewing asked Ms. Stringer if she knows of any other township that has started this process with Cool Cities and creating a plan. She said she did not. Mr. Bray said he does not know of any municipality in Bucks County but he knows that Haverford Township is working on a similar plan and has mirrored Lower Makefield in its environmental practices and policies.

BIRDTOWN USA

Mr. Ewing said that Ms. Brandt will be in touch with Mr. Steve Saffier and will give the Council an update next month.

EARTHSHIP

Mr. Bray said the Earthship event took place on November 18th at 7:30 pm at the LMT Admin. Bldg. Ms. Loraine Scala of Silver Lake Nature Center gave the well-received presentation. Mr. Bray said a group of interns are putting in a new building at Silver Lake Nature Center that is

completely carbon free. Silver Lake Nature Center was able to secure significant grant funding to subsidize the cost of the program.

AUDUBON – BIRDTOWN

Mr. Bray said that Mrs. Brandt would be talking with Mr. Steve Saffier from Audubon at Home about Lower Makefield Township joining the program.

LOWER BUCKS/DELAWARE EAC MEETING

Mr. Ewing said all of the Environmental Advisory Councils that border the Delaware River are invited to the Lower Bucks/Delaware EAC meeting on December 14th at Silver Lake from 6 to 7:30 pm to talk about issues involving the Delaware River. Mr. Ewing asked for ideas for discussion at the meeting. Mr. Bray suggested talking about Lower Makefield being the only township to adopt an LID ordinance. Mr. Dresser said the Neshaminy Creek Stormwater ordinance will be modified and as a result, Lower Makefield will take a more comprehensive look at stormwater techniques from that ordinance to apply to the Delaware watershed. He noted the revisions would keep the pre and post 2-year storm runoff levels equal.

Ms. Stringer asked if Marcellus Shale would be discussed at the meeting. Mr. Goll said that the DRBC published its regulations on drilling today and they will be available on-line at their website tomorrow regarding drilling oversight.

14TH ANNUAL REGIONAL EAC MEETING

Mr. Ewing said on the 14th annual Regional EAC meeting will be Saturday, April 14th at Villanova University. The organizers of the event are looking for people to shape the conference and sit on the panel for discussion. Mr. Goll said he would attend and key up his associate who is knowledgeable on Marcellus Shale to attend as well.

Mr. Ewing said he also received information that the PEC is looking for Tidal River Ambassadors if anyone is interested. A Tidal River Ambassador will encourage increased recreational use and stewardship of the Tidal Delaware River.

Mr. Ewing said he has also become aware of a conference on February 22nd about environmental stewards and how they reduce their own footprint. Ms. Stringer said she would be speaking at the conference about her own solar installation.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Mr. Bray said he talked with Mr. Fedorchak about possible solar and wind projects in the Township. Mr. Bray said Newtown is doing a project with wind and he would get information about that project. He said he would reopen the issue of solar in the Township. Mr. Ewing said he wondered if there is new technology with wind because he knows that wind turbines have to be installed over 1600 feet above sea level. Mr. Bray said the technology has improved and he has the example of Lincoln Financial Field project.

Mr. Bray talked about the Township open space project. Mr. Fedorchak said the Board would not spend any money on open space in the near future. Mr. Bray said that he indicated to Mr. Fedorchak that the Township has \$900,000 in open space money available right now and Mr. Fedorchak asked him to give him a list of the top 10 properties that would fall under \$900,000.

Mr. Bray said he also met with Mr. Fedorchak about the drainage basins. Mr. Fedorchak said the Township budget was reduced from \$135,000 to \$85,000 for grass cutting maintenance and will continue to expand the program.

Mr. Ewing said the EAC budget for 2011 is \$2,500, which includes \$1,500 for the Recording Secretary and \$1,000 for the Council's activities.

Mr. Bray said the Council should call Ms. Frick to get her input regarding the Green Building Code before moving forward. She could advise the Council on the best way to motivate people to renovate "green".

Mr. Bray said he asked Mr. Fedorchak if there have been any resumes or interviews for the vacancy/alternate EAC position. Mr. Fedorchak said he would move the Board along on finding someone.

Mr. Bray and Mr. Ewing talked about completing the EAC year-end review by February 1st.

Ms. Stringer said the City of Pittsburgh created an ordinance in defiance of state and federal actions to forbid drilling within the city limits. She said the ordinance is a statement that municipalities can be empowered to protect the air and water for their citizens. She would like Lower Makefield to support the Pittsburgh ordinance.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 12th at 7:30 pm in the Township Building.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rick Ewing, Chairman