

**TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MAKEFIELD  
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2011**

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, February 9, 2011. Chairman Dresser called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

**Those present:**

**Environmental Advisory**

**Council:**

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

**Others:**

Matt Maloney, Supervisor Liaison  
Dave Fritchey, Park & Recreation Board  
Donna Linney, Park & Recreation Department

**APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 2011 MEETING MINUTES**

Mr. Sundeen moved, Mr. Goll seconded and it was unanimously carried to approve the January meeting minutes with changes.

**MEMORIAL PARK TREE PROJECT**

Mr. Fritchey and Ms. Linney were present at the meeting. Mr. Fritchey said he received an email from Mr. Ewing with the EAC's 2010 accomplishments and the Roelofs tree project jumped out at him. He felt if the EAC was able to secure trees at Roelofs, the EAC could lend assistance to help with creating the Arboretum at Memorial Park, which has been a stagnant project for many years. Mr. Fritchey explained the vision for Memorial Park.

Mrs. Brandt explained that bare root trees could be purchased through the PA Horticultural Society for \$35 each. Mr. Fritchey said he would like to have a landscape architect create a plan for the park with species and locations marked out. The property is 63 acres with some open space, landscaped areas, brush and wetlands.

Mr. Bray suggested coming up with a long-term master plan for the park. He and Mrs. Brandt could help devise a master plan and provide expertise on how to plant and maintain the trees. Trees could be obtained from the Horticultural Society over several years. Mr. Goll asked Mr. Fritchey and Ms. Linney if they had an idea for the look of the Arboretum and they said they would like it to have an informal look.

Mr. Goll suggested also offering the purchase of trees as a memorial to loved ones.

Mr. Fritchey said he would like to see a coniferous buffer along Woodside Road and possibly install that buffer this spring. Mr. Bray said he and Mrs. Brandt would work with the Park & Recreation Department and Board to move this project along. Mr. Fritchey and Ms. Linney excused themselves from the meeting.

### **NESHAMINY CREEK AND DELAWARE SOUTH WATERSHED**

Mr. Dresser said the DEP and the county revised the Neshaminy Creek watershed stormwater management plan. The Stormwater Management Subcommittee strongly supports this plan mainly because it requires that no stormwater runoff leave the site for precipitation events up to 3.34 inches in 24-hours (the 2-year storm). Mr. Dresser said he talked with the Bucks County Planning Commission about similar changes to the Delaware South watershed. The Bucks County Planning Commission said they would be put in MS-4 next year. Mr. Dresser will send a memo to the Board of Supervisors asking the Township to do the same to revise the Delaware South stormwater ordinance as well as the Neshaminy Creek ordinance, which must be done by May 16, 2011. Mr. Maloney suggested drafting both ordinances at once and advertising them together would save on legal fees.

### **COOL CITIES**

Mr. Bray said the Committee is not up to date on the Sustainability Plan but should be up to date soon.

### **OPEN SPACE**

Mr. Bray said he had a meeting with Mr. Fedorchak on Friday and they came up with a list of priority properties in several categories by size that could be potential open space purchases. The Board has been reluctant to move on the purchase of these properties because of present economic conditions. Mr. Bray stated the Township has \$824,000 from the Bucks County Open Space program and could move forward to purchase smaller properties. He said open space is a benefit to the Township home values and quality of life.

### **CITIZENS ENERGY FORUM**

Mr. Dresser and Mr. Sundeen recently attended the Citizens Energy Forum. Mr. Tom Wells was one of the attendees giving information about energy audits and topics touched on food issues.

Mr. Sundeen asked if it is worth it to continue sending out the newsletter because he doesn't have enough information to send out a newsletter at this time. The Council talked about including portions of the approved minutes in future newsletters.

### **GREEN BUILDING ORDINANCE**

Mr. Ewing said this is a project we could take on this year. It would be an incentive based residential and commercial Green Building Code. Mr. Bray suggested reviewing the Doylestown Green Building Code. The Council agreed to discuss this ordinance later in the year.

## **BUILDING HEIGHT RESTRICTION ORDINANCE**

Mr. Maloney said the Board of Supervisors must have a conversation with the Planning Commission and other groups in the Township to better explain the intent of this ordinance. He said the issue has been put aside for now but this is the environmentally right thing to do.

## **PARTNERSHIP WITH PENNSBURY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Mr. Bray said he is interested in forging a closer relationship with Pennsbury School District. Dr. Christine Zervos is the head of Community Partnerships and Grants Coordinator for Pennsbury School District. Mr. Bray would like to be the outreach person for the EAC and the School District.

## **MAKEFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GARDEN**

Mr. Bray stated that Marrazzo's has joined on to be a Pennsbury Partner and Mrs. Mazzitelli will contact Mike Marrazzo to ask if he would like to partner with Makefield in its Learning Garden endeavor. The Green Team met this month and plans for the garden are progressing.

## **BIRDTOWN USA**

Mrs. Brandt asked if the EAC wants to join Birdtown USA for a cost of \$850. We would have the opportunity to have free speakers for Township lectures and Birdtown training.

Mrs. Brandt said she had a meeting with Mr. Steve Saffier about Birdtown. Mr. Saffier said that Upper Moreland Township is designated a Birdtown USA town and is a good model. Upper Moreland has already completed a majority of the parameters required for Birdtown such as community involvement. Lower Makefield has also completed a majority of Birdtown parameters as well. The Council agreed to discuss at the next meeting.

## **2011 LECTURE SERIES**

The Council will think of lecture topics and bring those ideas to discuss at the next meeting.

## **YEAR END REVIEW**

Mr. Dresser said the Year-End Review is complete and is posted on the EAC's website.

## **BASIN UPDATE**

Mr. Bray said Mr. Hoffmeister called him to discuss what basins could be added to the list of naturalized basins. The Township is saving over \$40,000 in maintenance expenses a year through this program.

## **RECYCLING**

Mr. Dresser said he and Mrs. Bray are looking at what recyclables the residential trash haulers in the Township pick-up in their curbside collection. Once this list is compiled, it would be placed on the Township's website, TV channel, and anywhere else that might pass this information on to the public. Hopefully, these actions will increase the Township's recycling rate and the amount of recycling going to the Waste Management/Otters site.

The Council talked about the revenue the Township receives each year from recycling grants and that amount seems to be declining for several reasons. Mr. Dresser said the 2009 recycling grant application went out in October and Superfresh and Kohl's need to added.

## **LAND DEVELOPMENT REVIEWS**

**Regency at Yardley** - Mr. Goll said he received the revised plans and he said they've added rain gardens and addressed the run-off issue. Some things were not addressed and he sent a memo highlighting some of the concerns and will keep on top of these issues that need to be corrected.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm in the Township Building.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Alan Dresser, Chairman