

**TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MAKEFIELD
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 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, March 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 (absent)
Geoff Goll, Member
Joseph Sundeen, Member
Gail Stringer, Member

Others:

Matt Maloney, Supervisor Liaison

APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 2011 MEETING MINUTES

Mrs. Brandt moved, Mr. Bray seconded and it was unanimously carried to approve the February meeting minutes with changes.

BIRDTOWN

Mrs. Brandt said that Mr. Steve Saffier could not attend the meeting tonight. She will reschedule him to attend the April meeting to talk about Birdtown.

OPEN SPACE

Mr. Bray said he sent the Council the open space summary addressed to the Board of Supervisors for review. Mr. Dresser made some changes to the summary. Mr. Bray said Mr. Fedorchak would also review the summary and get back to Mr. Bray and Mr. Dresser. Mr. Fedorchak, Mr. Dresser and Mr. Bray will meet once a month to discuss various issues and will be meeting this Friday. Mr. Bray said ultimately he and Mr. Goll would meet with the Board of Supervisors in executive session to talk about the Council's recommendations for open space purchases. Mr. Dresser suggested presenting the potential open space property purchases to the Board and ask to make a presentation to the public at a Board of Supervisors meeting about the benefits of open space. Mr. Maloney suggested using executive session as a briefing session about open space. Mr. Bray said after the Board of Supervisors executive session, the EAC could formulate a strategy for the public presentation.

Mr. Bray said when the Township receives the \$824,000 county open space money the Township is supposed to put up a match of 25%. But if any of the property is purchased under appraised value, that difference could act as the 25% match.

MARCELLUS SHALE STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

Mr. Dresser said Mrs. Grayson sent the Marcellus Shale Statement of Principles to the EAC to review and approve. He asked if the EAC had the right to agree or disagree with the statement. Mr. Maloney asked if any other EAC's or Planning Commissions have signed off on the Statement and Mr. Dresser said he would ask Mrs. Grayson. Mr. Maloney said he read through it, agrees with it but needs to discuss it with the rest of the Board.

Mrs. Stringer moved and Mr. Goll seconded to approve the Marcellus Shale Statement of Principles contingent on the Board of Supervisors approval. The motion unanimously carried.

COOL CITIES SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

Mrs. Stringer said she updated the Plan with comments from the EAC. Mr. Dresser asked if the Temple University study and recommendation was included in the plan. Mrs. Stringer said not yet but could be as the Plan progresses. She has reached out to all of the people who contributed to the plan and is awaiting comments.

NESHAMINY CREEK AND DELAWARE SOUTH WATERSHED ORDINANCE

Mr. Maloney sent out an email asking the Board about updating this ordinance. Mr. Caiola will put this matter on the Board of Supervisors agenda in the next few weeks and Mr. Truelove and Mr. Majewski will be working on it.

LECTURE SERIES IDEAS

Mrs. Brandt talked about possible lecture ideas such as care of trees, bio-diversity, gardening with children/the Makefield Garden, bird habitats, compost basic, lawn alternatives, community CSA's, organic gardening and deer resistant plants. Mr. Bray suggested flood management, hybrid smart cars, and the benefit of open space.

Mr. Sundeen talked about an article he read about solar gardens, which could be an interesting lecture topic. He mentioned that he and his wife are considering geothermal for their home and that might another topic people are interested in.

The Council agreed to the lecture topics of geo-thermal, hybrid cars, flood management and open space.

RECYCLING UPDATE

Mr. Dresser said that Mr. Fedorchak is negotiating a new contract price with Waste Management now that they have single stream recycling. Waste Management opened a state of the art single stream recycling facility in Philadelphia.

LAND DEVELOPMENT REVIEWS

Regency at Yardley/CVS/PNC - Mr. Goll said he received a letter from Gilmore dated 2/28/11. Gilmore added a few planting areas to the plan but did not make as many adjustments to the plans as recommended by the EAC. Mr. Goll said he responded that the EAC was disappointed that Gilmore did not include as many of the EAC's recommendations that they said they would.

Mr. Maloney suggested the EAC and the Township disconnect Regency from PNC/CVS in response letters. Mr. Goll said his letter focused mainly on Regency but his 1st comment addressed the CVS/PNC issues.

Mr. Goll talked about infiltration requirements at the site. He said the applicant did not test the south side of the property. The applicant said they complied with section 9.k of the ordinance but Mr. Goll did not agree they met ordinance requirements. Mr. Goll noted the applicant has not met other design requirements and talked about specific issues the applicant is not dealing with such as soil compaction. The basins are also lower than the wetland area, which will cause the basins to be ponds and will not drain.

Mr. Maloney asked if the Regency final plan was approved and Mr. Goll said yes. Mr. Goll said at the last Board of Supervisors meeting Mr. Caiola asked that the applicant work with the EAC as a condition of approval and should reach out to the EAC.

NEW BUSINESS/OLD BUSINESS

Makefield Learning Garden

Mrs. Mazzitelli gave the Council an update on the progress of the Learning Garden. She said the Green Team would meet on Thursday morning to finalize details for the garden. She noted the garden did not receive the \$4,000 Waste Management Environmental Education Grant she applied for in November, which was a big disappointment and are looking for other ways to raise money for the Garden.

Mrs. Mazzitelli gave the Council an update on recycling in Pennsbury School District and said she and Kimmie Wodzanowski were invited to make a presentation on how revenue could be made through recycling in the District to the Pennsbury Finance Committee. Ms. Wodzanowski talked about companies that supply recycling bins and seek out advertisers for the bins to generate revenue for the District to compel more recycling. The Committee was very receptive to their ideas and will consider expanding the recycling that is already being done at Makefield to all of the other schools and investigate the recycling bin/advertising idea.

Bowman's Hill Symposium

Mrs. Brandt and Mr. Bray attended the Land Ethics Symposium at Bowman's Hill recently. The program included a Land Ethics Award presentation and this year's recipients were Bucks County Chapter of Trout Unlimited and Buckingham Township.

Patterson Farm

Mr. Dresser mentioned that the Board of Supervisors are considering selling 5.1 acres on Patterson Farm and Mr. Dresser asked the Board that the EAC have the chance to review any plans.

Mr. Goll said if Patterson Farm is sold, impervious restrictions must be placed on the property to minimize the number of buildings that are permitted on the property.

Open Discussion

Mr. Bray said he was given the Schuylkill Township Native Plant Ordinance at the Land Symposium and it is a great model taken from the Lower Makefield Township ordinance.

Mr. Bray said he would talk to the Board of Supervisors about the Township basin program. The program has not been fully solidified yet and he will be meeting with Hank Hoffmeister about expanding the program further. The Township has saved over \$47,000 with the basin program. The key to the program's success is cutting the mowing budget. The program has the potential to save the Township over \$100,000 per year.

5-Mile Woods

Mr. Goll said he recently visited 5-Mile Woods with his family on Saturday night. He saw Salamanders and Spotted Frogs that only come out a few nights during the season.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 13th 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