

Lower Makefield Township
Environmental Advisory Council
June 11, 2014
Meeting Minutes

Present: James Bray, Chairman
Jeff Benedetto, BOS Liaison
Alan Dresser, Vice Chairman
Rick Ewing, Member
Mark Bortman, Member
Cynthia D'Alessio, Member
Paul Roden, Member
Gail Stringer, Member

Also in attendance was Victoria Ewing.

Mr. Bray called the June 11, 2014 meeting of the EAC to order at 7:07PM.

Approval of May 14, 2014 EAC Minutes – The May 14, 2014 EAC meeting minutes were approved unanimously, as amended.

The “Wall” Issue Update – This issue will be on the Zoning Board agenda on Tuesday, June 17. Mr. Bray will attend, although he believes the EAC role will be minimal. He expects the questions to be answered to the satisfaction of all interested parties at this meeting. Mr. Roden suggested that there should be more education on these kinds of Township issues, and discussion of ways to educate residents followed. Mrs. D'Alessio had picked up some literature on responsible ownership for people who live beside a stream, which might prove useful.

Open Space Update – Mr. Bray and Mr. Dresser had met with Mr. Fedorchak and at that meeting, discussed the open space agenda. They plan to talk to Mr. Benedetto and Mr. Dobson about getting appraisals, particularly on the Guzikowski farm. The date by which LMT will have to use the County grant money is now the end of 2016. At the farmers' market, Mr. Bray talked to Mrs. Hildebrand, who has an open space property that was on the list of desirable properties. She said they might be interested in a conservation easement, rather than a sale.

Mr. Benedetto will follow up with the other Supervisors, encouraging them to move forward on the purchase of open space.

Tree Plaque – Patterson Magnolia – Mr. Ewing introduced his daughter, Victoria, who is designing the plaque for the Magnolia tree on Patterson Farm. She presented four design samples, which were well-received by the group. After discussion, it was determined that a small sub-committee of the EAC would meet to finalize their comments.

LMT Tree Tender Project at Oxford Valley Softball Complex - Mrs. D'Alessio reported that there are six Tree Tenders who have taken responsibility for watering the new trees. Mr. Bray said that, in their meeting with Mr. Fedorchak, they talked about replacing the Hackleberry tree that was planted during the mini-Tree Tender course, and is now dead. Mr. Bray will compile some suggestions for a replacement tree, get input from the EAC and give Mr. Fedorchak the opportunity to choose the one he wants.

EAC Booth at Farmers' Market and EAC Booth at Bucks County Migration Event – Both events provided opportunities for networking and educating people about the Tree Tenders, Bird Town and the work of the EAC.

Conference and Seminar Attendance Reports – Mrs. D'Alessio reported on the Native Plant Conference she had attended, and found very beneficial. She noted that the conference emphasized stormwater management and the importance of keeping rainwater on-site, using things like rain gardens and pervious pavement. She also learned that there is a plan to adopt standards for certifying sites, similar to the LEEDS certification for buildings. Mrs. D'Alessio will contact John Rogers about doing a presentation on backyard conservation in LMT.

Land Use Reviews –

Scammel's Corner – This property is under construction. Mr. Bray, the builders and the Township Engineers did a tour of five trees on the property, after a nearby homeowner suggested leaving the trees there might be a danger to his property. Mr. Bray and the Engineers agreed that the trees are not a danger to the homeowner.

Moon Nursery and St. Ignatius – There is nothing new on either of these projects.

Recycling Update – Mr. Dresser contacted Donna Liney about recycling at the Father's Day softball tournament.

Modify Tree Ordinance – The EAC will be presenting this ordinance at the Planning Commission June 23rd meeting.

Railroad Abatement Issue Update – There was discussion of Mr. Conley's comprehensive summary on this topic.

Drainage Basin Project – Road Tour and No Mow Signs – Mr. Bray and Mr. Bortman took the road tour but were unable to identify any new basins. They would like, next year, to talk to the BOS about considering some of the more high profile basins for naturalization. Mr. Bortman recommended a two-pronged approach for expanding naturalization: education and identifying areas for incremental lessening of mowing. Mrs. D'Alessio suggested that planting some attractive flowers and plants in the

high profile basins might be one way to educate people to the advantages of naturalizing. “No mow” signs were also discussed at the meeting with Mr. Fedorchak. Mrs. D’Alessio suggested that, rather than calling it “no mow”, a sign should highlight the benefits of not mowing. Mr. Fedorchak wants a permanent sign installed in the Memorial Garden.

Buy Local Buy Green – Because there were only 28 responses from the businesses in the community, it was agreed that there were not enough to create a business directory. Mrs. Stringer will draft a letter to be sent to 28 businesses that did respond. She will also put the list of business names in categories, to be used elsewhere in the Township.

Open Discussion – Mr. Bray referred to the article in the Courier Times about Eleanor Roosevelt School becoming LEEDS certified.

Mr. Benedetto will follow up with the other Supervisors on the possibility of publishing a Township newsletter again.

With no further business to discuss, the June 11, 2014 meeting of the Environmental Advisory Council adjourned at 9:30PM. There will be no July meeting; the next meeting of the EAC will be held on August 13, 2014, at 7:00PM, in the LMT municipal building.

Respectfully Submitted,

James J. Bray, Chairman