

**TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MAKEFIELD
DISABLED PERSONS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3, 2015**

A meeting of the Disabled Persons Advisory Board of the Township of Lower Makefield was held in the Municipal Building on Wednesday, June 3, 2015. Chairperson Huchler-Smith opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Those present:

BOARD MEMBERS:

Lisa Huchler-Smith, Chairperson
David Rogers, Vice-Chairperson
Megan Dorko, Secretary
Trish O'Donnell, member
Barbara Williams, member
Dan McLaughlin, Supervisor Liaison (attending
Supervisor's Meeting)

APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 4, 2015 MINUTES

Mr. Rogers moved, Ms. O'Donnell seconded and the March 2015 minutes were unanimously approved.

OPEN BOARD POSITION

A position is open for a new member of the DPAB. The position was advertised on the township Web site and TV channel. Many candidates have applied, and a new member will be selected soon.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT MEETING

Ms. Huchler-Smith was in attendance at the most recent meeting for emergency management. A hazmat coordinator spoke and discussed emergency protocol for major accidents and for the clean up of hazardous materials. Ms. Huchler-Smith did not get a chance to discuss the new emergency management form, but a new system called Everbridge (PA Ready Notify) is in place to help community members in the event of an emergency. With this new system, those who are registered will show up on a map as having special needs, and will receive special attention from responders in an emergency. The DPAB plans to see how this new system will work, and then decide whether to implement a push for registration among disabled community members.

PLAYGROUND

The township has made a new sign for the inclusive playground. The sign is currently positioned in front of the electrical grid to the right of the playground. The playground is still in need of some landscaping, and new trees are scheduled to be planted in the fall. Four benches have been installed by the township in anticipation of donations. To date, the township has received donations for one of the benches. Members of the community are currently reserving the existing pavilion for parties, etc. When a new pavilion is built it may be used for scheduled events, and families at the playground may use the current facility for the day.

APRIL BOS MEETING

Ms. Huchler-Smith attended the Board of Supervisors meeting in April and thanked the Board for the new playground sign, enhancements to the bike path, and striping of Woodside road to make it safer for pedestrians. She also discussed bench donations, and made the announcement that NO food or pets are allowed at the playground.

TOWNSHIP COMMUNICATIONS ENHANCEMENTS

The township recently printed a community newsletter that featured an article on the new inclusive playground. It has also been suggested that closed captioning be provided for community meetings for those watching the meetings via the Lower Makefield Township TV channel. Options were discussed, and the board has decided to approach Terry Fedorchak to see if and how that request can be accommodated.

BUILDING PLANS

Mr. Rogers plans to look at site plans for Edgewood Village. Other areas in the township need updates to their handicapped parking areas, including the ball field, which has 3 available handicapped spaces but only two with proper signage. McCaffrey's market and the community pool also need to update their handicapped parking in order to include proper signage.

REQUEST FROM ELECTRONIC MEDIA COUNCIL AND NEWTOWN ARTS COMPANY

The Electronic Media Council and the Newtown Arts Company has requested a sign language interpreter for their production of "The Miracle Worker." The DPAB suggested that more than one interpreter will most likely be needed and it may be difficult to find volunteers in this area. Ms. Huchler-Smith will send an email with a suggestion that they reach out to St. Mary Medical Center that often uses a pool of interpreters for their use.

OTHER BUSINESS

A Bucks County woman is alleging that the Doylestown Justice Center is not properly accessible. She alleges that there are not enough shuttle times available to and from the courthouse, not enough handicapped parking near the courthouse, and that a ramp/walkway in the area is too steep for a manual wheelchair. The Board discussed the situation.

MEETING SCHEDULE

The July meeting is cancelled.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 6th, 2015 at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Megan Dorko, Secretary