

**TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MAKEFIELD  
DISABLED PERSONS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2016**

A meeting of the Disabled Persons Advisory Board of the Township of Lower Makefield was held in the Municipal Building on Wednesday, February 3, 2016. Chairperson Huchler-Smith opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Those present:

**BOARD MEMBERS:**

Lisa Huchler-Smith, Chairperson  
David Rogers, Vice-Chairperson (absent)  
Megan Dorko, Secretary  
Trish O'Donnell, member  
Barbara Williams, member  
Jeff Benedetto, Supervisor Liaison  
(attending Supervisors meeting)

**APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 6, 2016 MINUTES**

Ms. O'Donnell moved, Ms. Williams seconded and the January 6, 2016 minutes were unanimously approved.

**REAPPOINTMENTS**

The Township has approved Ms. Dorko for two more years of service on the DPAB.

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

Ms. Huchler-Smith recently e-mailed Chief Coluzzi with questions regarding emergency management in Lower Makefield Township. Lisa inquired as to whether anyone had called with snow-related emergency requests, but the Chief stated that no such calls had been received. Chief Coluzzi also stated that the DPAB's special needs form is still a valuable tool in the community, and Ms. Huchler-Smith has requested that the Chief test the PA Ready Notify (Everbridge) system for disabled citizens. Chief Coluzzi also stated that he supports the formation of a volunteer-based organization that is designed to help citizens in the event of a snow-related emergency (such as the "Snow Angels" group in Newtown).

**BROCHURE**

The DPAB brochure is to be brought up-to-date for both print and Web. The Board discussed a few changes, and Ms. Dorko will revise the brochure as necessary. The updated brochure will then be printed, as well as posted to the DPAB page of the Lower Makefield Township website.

## **2016 GOALS**

The DPAB has outlined their goals for 2016 as follows:

### **Follow Up on Outstanding Issues:**

- Dog Park – One of the proposed locations of the LMT dog park is Memorial Park. The DPAB is advocating for a location away from the Secret Garden Inclusive Playground as some children (particularly those with sensory issues), may be frightened by the dogs.
- Makefield Highlands Golf Course – The DPAB will ensure that the proposed improvements to accessibility and handicapped parking will be put into place at the golf course.
- Playground Trees – Trees for the Secret Garden playground are scheduled to be planted in the fall of 2016.

**Fundraiser for Park Benches:** The DPAB has proposed holding a fundraiser or giveaway that helps to raise money for park benches at the Secret Garden playground.

**Building Plan Review Training:** As Mr. Rogers is currently the only Board member with experience reading building plans, Ms. Huchler-Smith has proposed that all members receive training in this area. This will ensure that, if and when Mr. Rogers steps down from the Board, all proposed new buildings in Lower Makefield Township will be held to the accessibility and handicapped parking standards set by the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act).

**Establish Relationship with Zoning Officer:** Lower Makefield Township is presently outsourcing its zoning duties to an outside organization, and the DPAB would like to establish a relationship with the current zoning officer.

**Find New Ways to Address the Needs of the Community:** The Board discussed new methods of community outreach, and considered the possible implementation of a survey, or use of the LMT newsletter as methods for gathering information regarding the needs of elderly and/or disabled community members.

**Handicapped Parking:** Ms. Huchler-Smith has proposed compiling a master list of all parking facilities in Lower Makefield Township. A spreadsheet of parking facilities has been started, and the DPAB hopes to have the master list completed by the April 2016 meeting date. The DPAB will also assess compliant and non-compliant facilities, with assessment of Township property to be completed first.

**Reach Out to Other Committees:** The DPAB hopes to expand its efforts by reaching out to other committees, including:

- Veterans
- Community Events
- Seniors
- Neighborhood Watch

The DPAB hopes to connect with these other committees through use of the proposed survey, and by attending the meetings of these committees.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

The March meeting has been cancelled. The Board will meet again on April 6, 2016.

Respectfully Submitted,

Megan Dorko, Secretary