

Lower Makefield Township  
Environmental Advisory Council

October 11, 2017

Meeting Minutes

Present: Mark Bortman, Jim Bray, Soumya Dharmavaram, Alan Dresser, Dan Grenier, Lisa Kamp, Paul Roden, Peter Solor

Also in attendance was Tom Alvarez, Lower Makefield Township resident

Mr. Solor called the October 2017 meeting of the EAC to order at 7:00PM.

**Approval of September 13, 2017 Meeting Minutes** – The minutes were approved, with changes.

**Basin Naturalization and Mowing Plan** – The planned discussion with Mr. Hucklebridge at the November EAC meeting has been postponed so that Mr. Bray, who is familiar with the entire history of the Basin Naturalization plan, can attend. Mr. Bray provided background on the program for the newer EAC members. He noted that it was very successful from the beginning, with few complaints from residents, and a savings to the Township of up to \$50,000 per year. In the last two years, it was discovered that basins in the program were being mowed.

Mr. Dresser met with Mr. Hucklebridge to see what could be done about this problem. In that meeting, Mr. Hucklebridge suggested that 8 of the basins, originally in the program but currently being mowed, could be brought back into the program. There was general agreement among the EAC members that all, not just 8, of the basins in the program should be reinstated.

Mr. Grenier had also conversed with Mr. Hucklebridge and feels that he is generally supportive of the program. He and Mr. Hucklebridge are both in favor of taking stock of the program by looking at each basin in the Township and evaluating how it should be treated. Mr. Grenier doesn't feel any of the basins that are currently part of the program would probably be taken out of the program. He would like to look for invasive species in the basins. Mr. Dresser pointed out how beautiful the basins are on Lindenhurst Road. Mr. Roden suggested that the EAC members visit the basin at Mercer Museum to see a prime example of a naturalized basin. Mr. Bortman suggested that the EAC should be monitoring the basins to make sure that they are being maintained in line with the dictates of the program. There was discussion of finding ways of involving the LMT Maintenance crew so that they become stakeholders in the program. Initial steps have already been taken in that direction by having some LMT Maintenance employees attend a PHS Tree Tender meeting.

Mr. Solor will find out when Mr. Hucklebridge is available to meet with the EAC, outside of the EAC monthly meeting, and will let everyone know. Mr. Dresser will keep Monica Tierney, the new Director of Parks and Recreation, in the loop.

**Treevitalize Grant** – Meghan Rogulus of the Bucks County Conservation District had gotten in touch with Mr. Bortman to let him know that November 10 is the deadline for Treevitalize grant applications. It was agreed by the EAC that, with the \$180,000 remaining in the tree bank from the DRJTBC, and other money due to the tree bank, there is no need to apply for grant money.

**EAC Lecture Series** – There was discussion of the upcoming lecture by Mike McGrath, in the LMT Township Building on October 28. Flyers have been posted, information has gone out on social media, the Township will have notices on their website and cable channel, Mr. Roden and Mrs. Dharmavaram sent a notice out to the EAC Email group; Mr. Grenier will forward a copy of the flyer to all members.

There was a discussion about whether the lecture should be videotaped and it was agreed that it should be, if Mr. McGrath is amenable. Lauren Edelstein will follow up on that. If Mr. McGrath agrees, Mr. Dresser will contact Dave Kelliher about videotaping the lecture.

Some attendees might arrive as early as 9am, so any EAC members who wish to help, should arrive at 8:30 for set up. Coffee, cider and donuts will be available.

**Morrisville Sewage Authority Field Trip** – Mr. Dresser asked if there was any interest among the group in taking a field trip to the Morrisville Sewage Authority. There were a number of members interested, as well as some additional people interested as mentioned by Mr. Lewis in a previous meeting. The tour would be on November 18 and start at 1pm. Mr. Dresser will contact the Authority about the tour and copy Mr. Lewis.

**LMT's MS4** – Mr. Dresser has the 2018 application. He said that part of the MS4 program is looking at specific watersheds and that he will look at selected basins within those watersheds for compliance with MS4 requirements.

**Fall EAC Newsletter** – Mr. Roden and Mrs. Dharmavaram sent out a Fall newsletter, which included information on the October lecture, and will publish a Winter newsletter before the end of the year.

#### **Open Space** –

There was an update on the property behind Kohl's. The 5.73 acre property has exceptional environmental worth because of its two distinct geographical areas, Piedmont and Coastal Plain, as well as its contiguity with 5 Miles Woods. Mr. Bray has attempted to get in touch with the owner but without any luck. He had given a letter to the Township to be signed by Mr. Fedorchak and sent to the owner. It was noted that there is \$500,000 left in the Open Space budget.

In a discussion of the .64 acre University of Dayton property, Mr. Grenier said Adrian Costello has agreed to speak with officials at the University about the property, which had been left to them. He will report back with any information from Mr. Costello.

**Land Use Reviews** – There were no new land use reviews to discuss but there was a conversation about the land use review process in LMT and the process of ordinance changes.

It was agreed that the land use review process broke down at one point and never got back to the original process. It was also agreed that the EAC should be added to the list of land use reviewers in the Ordinance. It was noted that the Memorial Garden was never formally reviewed.

It was noted that the EAC did not get the opportunity to review the recent changes to the pervious surface requirements in the ordinances. It was only reviewed by the Planning Commission. Mr. Dresser will ask Mr. Majewski to make sure appropriate documents are sent to the EAC In the future.

A brief discussion ensued on the Pervious Pavement Ordinance, which currently applies only to commercial entities. It is possible that the EAC will promote this for homeowners in the future.

Mr. Solor will continue to attend Planning Commission meetings and encouraged others to attend.

Mr. Majewski is working on smoothing out the Township ordinances. He has divided the changes into short-term, intermediate and long-term. The short term changes have been sent to the Township for review. The EAC would like to have input into the next round of changes.

Mr. Solor has been exploring the Township's success in meeting its energy commitments, including getting 20% of its energy from renewable sources. To date, he has not been able to get copies of the bills from the Township to facilitate this review.

**Community Environmental Award** – Mr. Bortman suggested the award should be given to the National Honor Society students who helped with the Electronic Waste Collection. The award will probably be announced in December and the award ceremony held at a BOS meeting in January or February. The money will come from this year's budget. Mr. Bray will forward the information to Mr. Bortman on where to get the plaque.

Another electronic waste collection may be held in the Spring. Mr. Dresser recommended picking a date in time to get it in the tax notice that goes out in February.

**EAC Budget** – Mr. Solor reported that there is \$2,000 left in the budget. Suggestions on what the money should be used for included signs for the basins. Mr. Bray said that the signs would be free if the Township makes them. He will send the info on having the signs made by an outside vendor to Mr. Dresser. Mr. Grenier suggested the signs include an educational component. Other suggestions for the money were recycling bins for the Community Center and additional solar panels for the Township building. Mr. Bortman will investigate whether he can add on to the solar panels that are already there.

Mr. Solor suggested they should table the discussion of how to use the money until next month's meeting when they have more information on the costs for recycle bins and solar panels.

**Odds and Ends** – Mr. Solor reported on the Growing Greener Grant. He never received the template of the letter from Yardley Borough and suspects, since the deadline is fast approaching, that they may not be applying for the grant.

Mr. Bortman announced that he will be resigning from the EAC but will remain until February, when his term is up, and will continue to coordinate the electronic waste and Styrofoam collections.

With no further business to discuss, the October 2017 meeting of the EAC was adjourned at 9pm. The next meeting of the EAC will be held on November 8, 2017, at 7pm, in the LMT Municipal Building.

Respectfully Submitted,

Peter Solor, Co-Chairman