

Lower Makefield Township
Environmental Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
December 13, 2017

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

The first order of business was to approve the November 8, 2017 EAC meeting minutes. The minutes were approved as written.

Open Space –

- Mr. Dresser reported on the property which is next to Kohl's and borders Five Mile Woods. He has knocked on the owner's door three times to discuss the property and has not found anyone at home. He will keep trying.
- There was discussion of the University of Dayton property. Mr. Grenier noted that Mr. Costello, who may be able to help in the effort to get that property for LMT, is due home over the holidays and Mr. Grenier will contact him.
- It was noted that, other than the money earmarked for the Hildebrand property, there is no more money in the 2018[Title] budget for open space.

This led to a discussion of the Township budget and some upcoming expenses. Mr. Grenier said there is a chance that the sewer issue could be a big expense for LMT, causing the Township to borrow money. He indicated that there is not a lot of money left in the budget, due to competing uses for the money, and that costs are going up and revenues are flattening. He said there is still interest in buying open space but that we will have to prioritize.

Elcon Phase 2 – There was a brief discussion of this topic and it was agreed that there is currently nothing happening that needs the EAC's immediate attention.

Basin Naturalization & Mowing Plan and Other Items from November 29th Hucklebridge/Public Works

EAC Meeting – The EAC had scheduled a meeting on November 29 between the EAC and Greg Hucklebridge, Public Works Director, to discuss, in depth, the Basin Naturalization program, and to address several other topics. Several members of the EAC were at the meeting, as well as Kristin Tyler, Township Supervisor. Members of the EAC who had been in attendance provided an overview for those who were not there:

- Basin Naturalization - Mr. Solor had agreed at the meeting to purchase 53 educational signs for select basins. He had subsequently purchased the signs and will forward the information he had compiled on these signs to Mr. Grenier. Mr. Dresser asked that the members give some thought to where the signs should go. Mr. Grenier will get the Basin Naturalization program on the BOS agenda in the Spring.

- Herbicide Use – Mr. Hucklebridge and the EAC had agreed that this subject would be further explored in the Spring, with an eye toward limiting the use of Glyphosate.
- Winter Road Maintenance- The EAC had learned that the Township makes their own brine and that they make every effort to reduce the use of salt.
- Compost – It was suggested that it would be helpful to Township residents if there was information in the EAC Winter Newsletter on where the pick up and drop off points in the waste yard are.
- There followed a discussion of the Franklinia tree in the Slate Cemetery. Mrs. Tyler asked if anyone knew the best way to propagate the tree. Since then, Mr. Bray has been working with a propagation expert at Bowmans Wildflower Preserve. Mr. Grenier said, if Bowmans can not make it work, he might be able to help. He is doing propagation projects with Morris Arboretum and might be able to find a Franklinia expert.
- Issues around ash trees and hemlocks were raised and will be discussed at a future meeting.
- Mr. Bray said that several years ago, Public Works employees were provided some education on trees. He suggested that it might be a good idea to provide them with additional education and advocated for the Philadelphia Horticultural Society. Mr. Grenier suggested that they might also want to consider the Bucks County Conservation District to provide education.
- Mr. Grenier asked Mr. Bray to send him the list of basins and their specific mowing regimen, compiled by the Public Works. He will convert it to Excel. Eventually, he would like to convert everything to GIS.

2018 EAC Initiatives –

- Green Building Ordinance – Mr. Grenier said that, the next time the Ordinance is brought up in a BOS meeting, he will suggest reverting back to LEED Silver as the standard. Mr. Bray raised the issue of extending the ordinance to residential. Mr. Solor said that the IGCC is more thorough and code driven, and is a more proven quantity and has universal acceptance. There was discussion of having educational workshops.
- Tree Ordinances – There was discussion around possibly increasing the woodlands protection ratio and adding a woodlands protection when there are class I or class II steep slopes. Mr. Dresser mentioned that, with there being very little unwooded open space left in the Township, there is more pressure on the woodlands. With regard to the ash trees, Mr. Grenier said he would not exempt them from the tree replacement count if they are being treated for the emerald ash borer beetle. Mr. Bray would like to see the Township add a Heritage Tree Ordinance. Some initial work has already been done on this project. Mr. Bray will do some research and report back.
- Tree Bank – There was discussion about the large number of trees due to the bank from the Dogwood Drive project.
- Tree Planting Plan – The plan specifies almost 1,000 trees to be planted at 14 locations in the Township. The EAC will act as a catalyst to keep the plan on schedule.
- Open Space – It was suggested that the amount of open space the Township will have is partially budget driven and partially dependent on availability. The EAC will continue to look for additional opportunities.
- SALDO Ordinance – There was discussion of the need for cross committee attendance, as well as a technical review board.

- Sustainable PA Certification – Mr. Solor and Mrs. Dharmavaram will make a presentation to the EAC next month.
- Property and Plan Use Data Base – Mr. Grenier suggested that using GIS in this project will make their work much easier and more efficient.
- Education and Information Distribution – Mr. Solor sees a need to adopt regular processes for educating the residents about environmental issues. There is talk about adding a Township facebook page.
- Township Power Purchasing - The Township had committed to buying 20% of their power from alternative energy. Mr. Solor indicated that it appears that this has not been done. Mr. Grenier suggested that he bring it up in public comment.

EAC Lecture Series – Mrs. Dharmavaram spoke to a representative at PECO who said he would be interested in meeting with the EAC. Mr. Grenier suggested that she continue to dialogue with that rep but that, ultimately, they might want to include PECO’s outreach person. Mr. Dresser suggested that the rep come to our January meeting, and, in the meantime, the EAC could compile some questions for him. They might also want to find out if PECO has a set program. It was agreed that we should aim for a lecture every three months, with the next one in Spring.

LMT’s MS4 - Mr. Grenier will talk to Mark Eisold about the plan.

Winter 2017 Newsletter – Mr. Roden and Mrs. Dhavarama are working on the Winter issue of the newsletter and will forward it for review when complete.

Land Use Reviews –

Dobry Road – Updated plans were just received. Mr. Dresser will write up comments on this project, and forward them.

Dogwood Drive – The EAC wants a conservation easement on the property or dedication of the land to the Township. It also feels that the conservation area could be enlarged. They would like to see a third party protect the easement, in addition to the Township. Mr. Dresser will write up the comments and forward them.

Dunkin Donuts – This project is planned for Big Oak and Oxford Valley. Many of our ordinances don’t apply because it is part of the Matrix agreement. Mr. Solor will review the plan.

Environmental Award – Mr. Grenier asked Mr. Bortman to do a write up on the award recipients and send it to John Lewis. Mr. Bortman will purchase a plaque. The presentation of the award will take place during one of the February meetings.

Odds and Ends –

Electronic Recycling Event - On hold until January. We should get a notice in tax bill about this event.

Year End Review – Should be done by end of January.

Patterson Farm Solar Power- There was discussion about the possibility of putting solar panels on the packing house.

Fracking – Mr. Roden reported on an upcoming webinar on a resolution regarding fracking.

Snipes Farm Project – Mr. Grenier reported that the next step in this project is for it to go back to the BOS, who cannot hear it until March 4. He suggested that they hold workshops to bring people together to come up with a different plan.

With no further business to discuss, the December 13 meeting of the Environmental Advisory Council was adjourned at 9:45pm. The next meeting of the EAC will be held on January 9 at 7pm in the LMT municipal building.

Respectfully Submitted,

Peter Solor, Co-chairman