

Lower Makefield Township
Environmental Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

April 11, 2018

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

Also in attendance was Barbara Baus, LMT Resident

Mr. Dresser called the April EAC meeting to order at 7:00pm. The first order of business was the approval of the March EAC minutes. The minutes were approved unanimously, as amended.

Lecture Series

Nancy Lawson Humane Garden April 21 Lecture – There was an update on the status of the lecture. Still to be done:

- E-mail to EAC list to be sent out – Mr. Roden
- Meet with Monica Tierney regarding number of chairs needed, etc. – Mr. Bray
- Order and pick up coffee and donuts – Mr. Bray
- Last minute publicity – All

PECO Fall Lecture – It was agreed that the PECO lecture should be held in the Fall, with exact date to be determined at a summer meeting. It was also mentioned that PECO would be providing about 20 minutes of presentation, so that some thoughts and planning on what other groups that could be added need to be considered.

May 5th Electronics Recycling Event – Mr. Bortman was not in attendance to provide an update.

Basin Naturalization Program – Mr. Dresser has not been able to schedule a meeting with Mr. Hucklebridge in the last month. Mr. Grenier will follow up with Mr. Hucklebridge and emphasize the importance of the meeting. Some EAC members questioned why the Township can't simply continue with the program as it was originally set up. Mr. Grenier indicated that he feels it might be more effective to establish up front whether there should be changes to how each basin is treated. Mr. Dresser will contact Mr. Hucklebridge to suggest scheduling a night meeting before a Sewer Department or Planning Commission meeting.

Ordinance Changes –

“Gold” Green Building Ordinance - At a recent BOS meeting, it was voted 4-1 to advertise an ordinance change that would require LEEDs gold instead of the lower LEEDs certified. It will be voted on after advertisement.

Satterthwaite – The Satterthwaite house, which is owned by the Township, is a 5,000 square foot house that is in terrible shape. There was discussion of the cost to get it back in good shape. LMT voted to do some assessments on what would have to be done to make the structure livable again. The BOS directed RVE to conduct an Environmental Site Assessment of the property including testing for lead and

asbestos prior to moving forward with any future plans to determine the current state of the property. It has not been decided what the building will be used for.

Tree/Woodlands/Stream Buffer Ord. Proposals – Mr. Dresser presented his list of suggested changes. The discussion focused on provisions for woodland protection with focused on 70% vs. 80% protection standards. There was lengthy discussion of the changes of the woodlands protection ratios and stream buffers. There will be further discussion at the May meeting.

Heritage Tree Ordinance – Mr. Bray spoke about the ordinance. He suggested that the plan is to identify all heritage trees in the Township and do a write-up on each. With the approval of the Township, all trees worthy of such a designation on Township property would automatically be part of the program, while residents with heritage trees could opt in or out. Mr. Grenier raised a concern about publishing information on the tree locations, it was his experience working with state and federal natural resource agencies, that specific locations of federal and state protected species should not be disclosed. Some members of the EAC thought this would not be a concern because most trees will not be protected species. It was agreed to contact municipalities with similar ordinances, to see what they do.

Land Use Reviews -

New Review Committee – Mr. Grenier indicated that the plans for the first review committee meeting were coming together and a meeting would be scheduled soon. The first project to be reviewed will be Caddis Medical.

Octagon Phase 2 (Dunkin Donuts/Daycare) - The project does not have to meet most of the Township's environmental ordinances adopted since 2006 because of the May 2006 Matrix settlement. There was a discussion of the settlement agreement and whether the agreement has to be amended to allow for a commercial use such as Dunkin Donuts at the proposed location. On April 9 the preliminary site plan was recommended for approval by the Planning Comm. subject to addressing the review letters provided by Township professionals and the applicant providing traffic data.

Caddis Medical on Dobry Road - There was a discussion of the preliminary plan and concerns expressed about the delineated wetlands next door to the property, as well as the Township land that is part of the property. In addition, it was felt that buffers may be a problem. Comments on the plan will be drafted.

Dogwood Drive - There has been no activity on Dogwood Drive.

Community Environmental Award – Mrs. Bray will get the plaque made and schedule the presentation for a BOS meeting in May.

Letter of Support for Yardley Watershed Grant – Mr. Grenier will ask Mr. Fedorchak to sign the letter.

Plastic Bag Reduction – The write-up of the data on plastic bags which Ms. Kamp provided has been sent to Shop Rite to be forwarded to their customer list.

Open Space – There has been no movement on the University of Dayton property because the Township doesn't have any money for open space.

Odds and Ends – Mr. Solor noted that he has still not received the data he requested on Township energy usage. He also indicated that he will do the 2017 review. Mr. Grenier said that we did not get the grants for solar panels that we had applied for.

With no further business to discuss, the Environmental Advisory Council meeting was adjourned at 9:45pm. The next meeting of the EAC will be held on May 9, 2018, at 7pm, in the LMT Municipal Building.

Respectfully Submitted, Alan Dresser, Co-chairman