

Lower Makefield Township
Electronic Media Advisory Council
January 31, 2019
Meeting Minutes

Present: Zachary Rubin, Chairman; Lisa Gage; Dave Kelliher; Ann Schreiber; Kristin Tyler, BOS Liaison; Joshua Waldorf

Mr. Rubin called the January 31, 2019 meeting of the EMAC to order at 7:30pm. Mrs. Tyler was welcomed as the new BOS Liaison.

The first order of business was approval of the November minutes. The minutes were approved, unanimously, as written.

Status of Verizon Franchise Agreement – Mr. Rubin provided some background on the negotiation between Verizon and Lower Makefield Township, which ended in a court challenge when the negotiation team could not come to agreement. He reported that the FCC has not yet made a ruling on the challenge. In the meantime, the Township is still receiving the 5% franchise fee.

Comcast's Pedestals – Mr. Rubin provided background on Comcast's project, beginning in 2008, to upgrade their underground pedestals and, as part of the process, leaving them above ground. There were complaints from residents, which led to Comcast being told they needed permits and could not leave them above ground. Comcast appealed and a brokered agreement was reached, in which Comcast agreed to get permits and they are allowed to put pedestals wherever they want but must pay a fee.

Video Clips – Mrs. Gage reported that the last two video clips that she and Ms. Schreiber produced are on the website and on the cable channel. She sent a request to the Township to add to their home page. Mrs. Tyler suggested that Parks and Recreation can put it on their facebook page and has someone that can distribute the clips. She will contact them about it.

Mrs. Gage distributed a draft of a letter meant to introduce the video clips to the Township realtors. She will finalize it and send to Mrs. Tyler. Mr. Waldorf said he will contact the Board of Realtors to get input on the best way to get it to the appropriate people.

Mrs. Gage also distributed a list of four possible video clips for 2019. Mrs. Tyler will introduce it at the January Executive Board meeting.

5G – 5G stands for fifth generation network and is a new way of doing cellular communications. The company that is far ahead of all others in developing 5G is Rahway, a Chinese company and the largest communications company in the world. Mr. Rubin believes that the FCC will give companies providing 5G service the permission to build pedestals in any neighborhood. Verizon is the first company in the US to try 5G and that is taking place in other parts of the country.

New Business – Mrs. Gage announced that she has not renewed her membership on the EMAC, and will be moving to the Special Events Committee. Mr. Rubin thanked her for the good work she had done during her long tenure on the EMAC.

Old Business – Ms. Schreiber suggested that there is a need to keep the website more up to date. Mr. Rubin said that will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

Mr. Rubin and Mr. Waldorf discussed their effort to schedule a meeting with the Township Manager to discuss hiring a Communications Director, while acknowledging the likelihood that there is not money in the budget for that position.

With no further business to discuss, the January meeting of the EMAC was adjourned at 8:30pm. The next meeting of the EMAC will be held in the LMT Municipal Building at 7:30pm on March 28th.

Sincerely,

Zachary Rubin, Chairman