

Upper Makefield Township

Environmental Advisory Council Meeting

December 8, 2015

The December 8, 2015 public meeting of the Upper Makefield Township Environmental Advisory Council was called to order by Chair Keith Miller at 7:05 PM. In attendance were the following members of the Environmental Advisory Council: Chair Keith Miller, Vice Chair Cathy Magliocchetti, Member Bud Baldwin, Member Jack Wiseman, Member Nicole Kahn, Board of Supervisors Liaison Tom Cino, and Staff Liaison Cindy La Rue.

I. Call to Order: 7:06 P.M.

II. Public Comment:

Ronnie La Nasa, Upper Makefield resident asked to be heard by The Environmental Advisory Council later in the meeting. He stated that he did not want to “ambush the agenda”. Mr. Miller thanked Mr. La Nasa and moved on to the next item.

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes:

A. November 10, 2015

Motioned by Mr. Baldwin to approve the previous meeting minutes, seconded and approved (5-0)

IV. Discussion Items:

A. Fowler/Holmes Riparian Grant Application:

Mr. Holmes and Ms. Fowler presented the circumstances behind the grant application they had submitted to Upper Makefield Township. Pictures of the property erosion and flooding concerns were submitted and reviewed by the members. Mr. Holmes and Ms. Fowler stated the flooding and erosion is coming from upstream properties that are considered vacant and “unbuildable”. Mr. Holmes and Ms. Fowler stated that they have retained an engineer to survey the land and develop a proposal for solutions.

Ms. Magliocchetti stated that she, Mr. Wiseman and Ms. Nolan walked the property for an on-site inspection of the concerns. Ms. Magliocchetti stated the consensus is they are a candidate for the Riparian grant opportunity. Ms. Magliocchetti reviewed the process of the grant and steps that could be taken to remediate the stream. Mr. Baldwin also commented on how to stabilize the banks of the stream.

The Environmental Advisory Council recommended more time for reviewing the application and discussing possibly solutions to the erosion and flooding concerns. The Environmental Advisory Council asked Ms. Fowler and Mr. Holmes to return to the February Meeting and they will be prepared to guide them in a more defined direction.

B. Open Space Program:

The Laughlin Land Development Plans, also known as, "Property L" was tabled, due to unfavorable circumstances during the site visit by Environmental Advisory Council members. Ms. Kahn motioned for the Environmental Advisory Council to recommend to the Planning Commission not to approve the development plans because of the Storm Water Management proposed on the current Land Development plans. Ms. Magliocchetti stated that the collection of run-off water originating from the Newtown Township portion of the possible development would be collected and managed on the Upper Makefield Township portion of the possible development. It was seconded and approve (5-0).

Upper Makefield resident Ronnie La Nasa, informed the Environmental Advisory Council on the research he conducted regarding the history of Upper Makefield Township residents Dr. Charlotte & Dr. George Dyers. Stating they were both Intelligence Professors at Yale University and University Of Pennsylvania, Intelligence Officers in World War II and the Korean War. He then stated he did not believe they were duped into donating the land they owned to Natural Lands Trust because of their high education level and intelligence level. He stated his research found they spear headed an organization called Open Space Inc. Mr. La Nasa, also stated the Dyers should be celebrated because they pioneered the Open Space Program in Upper Makefield. Mr. Baldwin stated information regarding the history of the Natural Lands Trust acquisition of the Dyers land. Mr. Baldwin then discussed the nature of Natural Lands Trusts land acquisitions procedures. He also commented that Dr. Dyer choose this organization to preserve their land. Mr. La Nasa, followed Mr. Baldwin with the logistics of how the Natural Lands Trust acquires land. He stated that Natural Lands Trust acquires land based on the ecological importance of the land and the ability to maintain the land with an endowment fund, provided by the land owner or the ability to sell a portion of the land. He continues with how the Natural Lands Trust has denied more land then they acquired due to their strict guidelines for land acquisitions. Mr. La Nasa finished by recommended to the Environmental Advisory Council to repair the public view of the Council and to be proactive regarding the maintenance of the current open space areas with volunteers and staff.

C. Houghs & Jericho Creek Study Proposal Reviews:

The Environmental Advisory Council tabled comment until the January meeting allowing members to review the submitted proposals in greater depth.

D. Herbicide/ Pesticide Information Packets:

Mr. Miller will take the information provided and create a one page flyer for a resident informational mailing regarding the use, storage and disposal of these chemicals.

E. Leaf Collection / Composting:

Ms. Magliocchetti will also create a one page flyer regarding leaf litter waste. The two flyers will become a single page informational mailing for residents.

V. Liaison's Report:

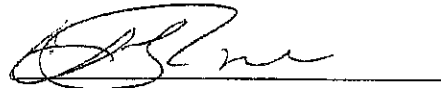
A. Board of Supervisors: Tom Cino
No updates

B. Park & Recreation : Cathy Magliocchetti
Ms. Magliocchetti stated that the last month's meeting was canceled

C. Planning & Zoning: Cindy La Rue
No updates

VI. Adjournment:

A. Motioned by Mr. Miller. It was seconded and approved (5-0)



Cindy La Rue

Township Liaison

Approved 1/26/2016 - CSL