

Environmental Advisory Council

January 10, 2012 Meeting Minutes

The January 10, 2012 public meeting of the Upper Makefield Township Environmental Advisory Council was called to order by Chair Cathy Magliocchetti at 8:00 p.m. In attendance were the following members of the Environmental Advisory Council: Chair Cathy Magliocchetti, Vice Chair Paul Greger, Member Ed Ford, Member Loraine Muth and Member Phil Sandine. Also in attendance were Supervisor Liaison Mary Ryan, Jeff Marshall, Heritage Conservancy and Dave Kuhn, Planning & Zoning Director, Upper Makefield Township.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made and was seconded to approve the December 13 2011 minutes with changes discussed. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Land Development

A. Nenner Land Development Plan, 1120 Taylorsville Road.

This Sketch Plan proposed to convert a residential home into a commercial property in the VC1 zoning district. Mr. Nenner wishes to run an insurance office out of this location. This property is in compliance with parking and impervious surface requirements. There is a proposed garage included in this project. The next step for this sketch plan would be land development plan for approval from the Board of Supervisors. The EAC is requesting to have included in the plan: porous pavement for the parking lot with the exception of spots # 9, 10 and the handicapped accessible spot, if needed move future septic system out of the riparian buffer, plan needs to consider mitigating creek run-off and stream restoration and location of garage outside of the riparian buffer, make the wood line to occupy the entire riparian buffer, property owner made aware of the 537 Plan.

Discussion Items

A. Guest speaker, Nancy Minich, gave a presentation/proposal on landscape management/riparian buffer techniques to address the continuing erosion issues behind the township complex, and how we might proceed with making storm water management changes in the area to improve the currently deteriorating conditions. Mr. Minich believes the ball fields are the culprits creating sheeting of storm water leading to erosion of the stream bank. She continued that deer are as damaging to the tree line as storm water. The high impervious surface of the Municipal complex is creating water channels from this side of the stream. A means that can be taken to correct or mitigate the stream bank is to do a riparian buffer. Install an infiltration trench and make a wide native plant buffer. Another method would be to install an infiltration basin in the low point of the municipal complex and building downspouts to include rain gardens. This could be presented as a community outreach project funded by matching grants from the Bucks County Conservation District. Ms. Magliocchetti asks Ms. Ryan if the matching funds could be used from the Township's Riparian Grant fund or the Tree Bank fund or a combination of both. Ms. Ryan suggested asking Township Solicitor for guidance. Planning & Zoning will create a topo map of the Township property and soil information for the same location to be emailed to Ms. Minich for further review. The EAC has invited Ms. Minich to the next meeting with a master restoration plan and estimated costs.

- B. Riparian Grant Process, Cont' from December 13, 2011 EAC meeting.
EAC members are gathering the field reports from the Upper Jericho Creek walks to compile to one. Planning & Zoning will provide storm water basin locating and soil maps.
- C. Discussion of Environmental Management/Sustainability practices within the Township.
Following up on the conversation regarding the practice of idling police vehicles; Ms. Magliocchetti met with Chief Schmidt. Currently two vehicles are fitted with an instrument that allows electronics in the vehicle to run while shutting the engine off. However, it does not allow the computers to run do to a power surge. The equipment allowing the vehicles to shut off and maintain the ability to run all electronics is cost prohibitive at this time.
- D. Earth Day-Tree Planting, April 21, 2012.
Mr. Greger is planning a major tree planting for dedication during the Earth Day Event. Reminder letters have been sent to recruit vendors. Musical acts are being sought as well. Mr. Greger is going to contact local schools for participation. Signs will be created to advertise around the Township. The cost of the signs will come out of the Earth Day budget. Mr. Greger is collecting prices for the signs.
- E. Basins.
The EAC was asking what cannot be planted around basins. Moved to discuss at next meeting is the possibility of creating an Invasive Plant ordinance. Mrs. Ryan suggested the Planning Commission to review the noxious weed list.
- F. Land Trust Beneficiary.
Dr. Ford explains the benefits and procedure of making Heritage Conservancy a Land Trust Beneficiary for Open Space parcels.

Liaison Report

- A. Board of Supervisors: Mary Ryan-Nothing to report.
- B. Park and Rec.: Cathy Magliocchetti-Irrigation well expansions at Lookout & Brownsburg Parks. Gilmore & Associates is examining alternative irrigation sources at Lookout Park. Brownsburg Park proposed well expansion is on hold for the time due to costs. Park & Rec. is recommending the Township have an opinion from a landscape professional for an alternative plan.
- C. Planning & Zoning: Dave Kuhns-Open space map is updated.

Adjournment:

A motion was made and was seconded to adjourn the meeting at 10:20 p.m. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Minutes approved at the February 14, 2012 meeting.