

# Upper Makefield Township

## Environmental Advisory Council Meeting

April 11, 2017

The April 11, 2017 public meeting of the Upper Makefield Township Environmental Advisory Council was called to order by Vice Chair, Kyle Dudley at 7:05 PM. In attendance were the following members of the Environmental Advisory Council, Member Nicole Khan, Member Keith Miller, Member Bud Baldwin, Member Jack Wiseman, Board of Supervisors Liaison Diana Nolan and Township Staff Cindy La Rue.

**I. Call to Order: 7:05 P.M.**

**II. Public Comment:**

No comment from the public

**III. Approval of Meeting Minutes:**

**A. February 14, 2017**

The motion was tabled to the next meeting due to member attendance.

**IV. Discussion Items:**

**A. PECO Representative, Vegetative Management Department:**

Ted Durand, Amanda Benner and Ernie Schwartz attended as representatives for PECO. The representatives discussed the current infrastructure upgrade initiative PECO is undertaking with in Upper Makefield Township boundaries.

Mr. Durand stated that this project includes vegetation removal within the "utility right of way", upgrade service wires, remove or replace poles and retire the local substations. Mr. Durand gave further details surrounding the logistics of the project involving private property owners including time line and debris removal.

Ms. Benner discussed the vegetation initiative PECO recommends for planting under wires. She stated the "right tree in the right place" meaning planting under wires should include low growing trees and meadow grasses. She stated that all of the needed information is on the PECO Website.

Mr. Schwartz gave further details and information regarding the PECO vegetation recommendations. He echoed the sentiment of Ms. Benner and Mr. Durand regarding removal and replacement of vegetation under wires on private property and in the right of way.

**B. Josh Swartly, Park Manager Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Delaware Canal State Park and Ralph Stover State Park:**

Mr. Swartly introduced himself and gave a brief background of his experience with DCNR and the Canal State Park. Mr. Swartly stated that the Canal State Park runs from Easton, PA. South to Bristol Boro., PA. Mr. Swartly debriefed the members on what are the current projects occurring along the canal and what we as a Township will see in the Park forthcoming.

Mr. Swartly described how increased development has increased the impervious coverage along the Canal State Park borders and how future projects will focus on storm water management, erosion control and water quality. He described how the Canal State Park controls the levels of the canal waters. Mr. Swartly stated and gave a hand out describing the boundaries of the Canal State Park and "riparian rights" of private home owners.

Ms. Khan, thanked Mr. Swartly for coming and "putting a face to the name". She also stated "because their park runs through our township" that a partnership is imperative. All members agreed and contact information was exchanged.

**C. Arbor Day Wrap Up :**

Ms. La Rue stated that the program was a big success and also a learning tool. The members recommended the program to run a second time with expanded parameters. Ms. La Rue reviewed the results of the program with the members and there were no concerns stated.

**D. Taylorsville Road Re Planting ; Requests for Proposals (RFP):**

Ms. Ryan reviewed the RFP with the members and some minor changes to the language were discussed to better express the needs of the Township. Mr. Nyman reviewed the map materials with the members stating how the project is split into "five areas". Ms. Ryan, Mr. Baldwin and Ms. Nolan discussed the design phase and the general consensus was a Landscape Architect was needed to guide the group with a plan. The Members asked for Mr. Nyman to revise the RFP with the changes discussed and send the document via email for review and acceptance by the members.

**E. Schwartz Subdivision Sketch Plan, 1070 Eagle Road:**

The suggestion was made to change the lots configuration to prevent crossing the easement of the roadway. One alternative recommended was to convey the space on the North West side of the proposed street to lot four (4) and a Home Owners Association. A second suggestion was to convey the entire segment of land on the North West side of the proposed street to a Home Owners Association.

The EAC commended Zaveta Custom Homes, LLC for their development practices. Ms. Ryan also stated that head waters to the Houghs Creek are located on this property. The Members agreed that the riparian buffers area needs to be expanded for this subdivision. The Members of the EAC recommend to the Planning Commission the expansion of the Riparian Buffer Zone to 100 feet from the center of Houghs Creek.

**V. Liaison's Report:**

A. Board of Supervisors: Diana Nolan  
No Comment

B. Park & Recreation : Cathy Magliocchetti  
No Comment, not present

C. Planning & Zoning: Cindy La Rue

Ms. La Rue updated the members regarding the Conservation Easement Monitoring at the Creeks Bend Development. She stated that there are two lots that are in violation and letters have been sent to the home owners of the violations. Ms. La Rue stated that a remedy for the easement violations with one of the two home owners is underway.

**VI. Adjournment:**

A. Motioned to adjourn

Motioned by Mr. Baldwin to adjourn the meeting; it was seconded and approved. (4-0). Ms. Khan was not in attendance at this time.