

Upper Makefield *Township*

Environmental Advisory Council Meeting

May 14, 2019 Meeting Minutes

The May 14, 2019 public meeting of the Upper Makefield Township Environmental Advisory Council was called to order by Vice Chair Keith Miller at 7:00 p.m. In attendance were the following members of the Environmental Advisory Council: Vice Chair Keith Miller and Member Tim Thomas. Also in attendance were Board of Supervisors Liaison, Diana Nolan and Planning and Zoning Liaison Denise Burmester.

Confirmation of Quorum: Mr. Miller announced that there was not a quorum and clarified that voting could not take place, but recommendations could be made.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

A. May 14, 2019:

No motion was made as there was not quorum to vote.

Land Development:

A. Patel Application – 371 Stoneybrook Road:

Mr. Deepak Patel, the property owner and Mr. Kris Reiss, P.E. of Boucher & James represented the Land Development submission for 371 Stoneybrook Road.

Mr. Reiss began by explaining the development efforts by walking through the existing features plan. Mr. Reiss explain the existing features of the existing house, foundation pads for buildings that have been taken down, a cell tower and Jericho Creek running through the property.

Mr. Reiss explained the planned land development to include the driveway to the planned new single family dwelling that was placed due to steep slopes and Jericho Creek crossing. A waiver was requested for a slope that was greater than ordinance for the driveway, but was no greater than the slope that currently exists. The driveway and bridge location across Jericho creek was chosen due to the existing creek path width. The planned crossing is where the creek narrows down to a single channel and will allow the avoidance of wet lands and ponds. The plan was also considering the least disturbance to the woodlands on the property and utilizing the existing path.

Mr. Patel explained the plans for demolishing the existing foundations on the property and reuse of the concrete for the construction of the new driveway. Mr. Reiss noted the area where the foundations are removed will be re-vegetated and the net impervious space will actually be decreased for the property with the improvements.

Mr. Reiss also walked through the stormwater management plans to include an underground drainage system, a berm for water collection to a basin and a trench along the driveway.

Mr. Reiss also noted that he had confirmed with Bucks County to confirm that the plans do meet agricultural easement requirements.

EAC member inquiries included the following:

- Confirming the bridge to cross Jericho Creek and how the chosen crossing was determined.
- Confirming that stream flow impact was studied to ensure the plan bridge would not get washed out, siting the stream problems that are currently being reviewed in the Township and the work being done with property owners. Mr. Reiss explained that a floodplain permit has been submitted and received a joint permit by DEP. The design will withstand a 25-year storm. The bridge has been designed with an arch that will ensure the bridge itself will not cause backflow. The bridge opening is 45 feet long to ensure there is no blockage. Mr. Reiss will work with the Township for a stormwater management plan.
- Confirming any easement has been addressed. Ms. Burmester explained the Conservation Easement on the property and restriction to development of one single family dwelling, in addition to the existing structures. Mr. Reiss spoke to how the single-family dwelling will be placed on the non-exempt lands and within the building envelope defined in the easement. The plan is to maintain the existing house along with a new single-family dwelling. Mr. Patel explained the desire is to keep the historical integrity by keeping the existing structures.
- Confirming the plan for tree removal. Mr. Reiss noted there is no plan to remove trees unless necessary to clear the brush for the bridge. The current location of the new dwelling is in an open area with no trees.
- Confirming the septic and well plans.

Mr. Miller noted that there were no issues with the plans presented. Ms. Nolan noted that the bridge design needs to ensure that there is no backup caused on the creek.

Discussion Items:

A. Watershed Riparian Restoration:

Mr. Miller noted that there are ongoing discussions with property owners regarding the restoration efforts. The current focus would be to identify projects that will restore the creek bed to its original path and the use of existing ponds to improve creek flow and reducing flooding.

Ms. Burmester noted that the focus of the Riparian Restoration has moved downstream to Lower Jericho Creek. This area of Jericho Creek was the area of greatest concern for DEP, and aligns with the goals of the MS4. A map of the creek was reviewed for possible placement of basins to assist with sediment collection and water flow.

EAC members reviewed the map to understand the sections that could be potential projects for the restoration. They also discussed how to take the plans to residents. There was also discussion on how PennDOT may need to be engaged on the bridge on Pineville Road for reconstruction.

B. Spotted Lanternfly – Public Awareness:

Ms. Burmester shared an article from the Courier that noted a natural response to the Spotted Lanternfly with a fungus that is eliminating some the population of the Lanternfly.

C. Earth Day Celebration Event, April 27, 2019, 11:00 to 2:00 – Recap

Mr. Thomas felt that Upper Makefield presented themselves very well. The pinecone feeders were a big hit and should be repeated next year. We have about 250 bags left from the day for next year, as well as laminated bookmarks.

D. Program for Public Information

Ms. Burmester explained the Program for Public Information was a requirement from the Community Rating System (CRS) that Upper Makefield is currently a member. Membership in CRS allows our residents discounts in flood insurance rates. Discounts are determined by the level of participation in the CRS activities. The more activities the Township participates in, the higher the level rating and the greater the discount for our residents. The goal of the Township is to reach Level 8 by 2020. Setting up a Program for Public Information committee via the EAC will increase the Township activity level and get us closer to level 8.

The Program for Public Information is a committee that determines messaging for the community and ways to ensure the messages are communicated to the community. These message will need to include information for CRS, but can be a communication plan to encompass any messages the committee wants to get to the community.

The EAC members inquired and discussed who can get flood insurance. Ms. Burmester clarified that a property does not need to be in a flood zone to get flood insurance, that flood insurance is available to any property owner. There was also discussion of where the FEMA floodplain is defined within Upper Makefield.

There was general agreement with the Program for Public Information, but would like to discuss with more of a quorum in attendance.

Liaison Report:

A. Board of Supervisors: Diana Nolan

- Congratulations on the Ordinances for Waste Management for stormwater and streams passed. Public notification through Newsletter and Herald were completed, would like to also notify HOAs and Landscapers. Further information could be provided by table tents at local businesses, door hangers and signs.

B. Park & Recreation: Cathy Magliocchetti

- No report.

C. Planning & Zoning: Denise Burmester

- Noted that Planning and Zoning staff is being trained on GIS to allow the delivery of updated maps to the Township and community.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

New Business:

A. Traffic Concerns:

Mr. Thomas raised concerns with the increased traffic that may occur on the bridge in Washington Crossing with the toll that is planned for Rt. 295.

Adjournment:

Mr. Miller adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Approved as Printed: July 9, 2019