

## **Upper Makefield Environmental Advisory Council**

### **September 10, 2024 Meeting Minutes**

The September 10, 2024 public meeting of the Upper Makefield Township Environmental Advisory Council was called to order by Chair Cathy Magliocchetti at 7:01 p.m. In attendance were the following members of the Environmental Advisory Council: Chair Cathy Magliocchetti, Vice Chair Harry Barfoot, Member Bud Baldwin, Member Carolyn Dorph, Member Eddie Hale, Member Ellen Radow, and Member Jack Wiseman. Also in attendance were Township Supervisor Ben Weldon, Township Supervisor Tom Cino, and Planning & Zoning Officer Denise Burmester.

#### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND MOMENT OF SILENCE**

#### **CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM**

Chair Cathy Magliocchetti confirmed a quorum.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

- James Ruggles of 5 London Ct. (representing the London Court HOA) – expressed concern regarding the Jericho Creek Log Dam Blockage on the property adjacent to the HOA properties. He noted that this is an ongoing issue on this property and is requesting Township help in getting the current log jam removed, as it has changed the dynamic of the creek. He is requesting that the Township consider funding this log jam removal in the 2025 budget considerations. Further he noted the concern that Bucks County has added the paper road to the street inventory on their GIS mapping.
- Kevin Holmes of 476 Stoneybrook Rd. – lives downstream from the 3 lots for sale on Jericho Creek and Taylorsville Road. He stated property maintenance concerns with debris traveling down the creek to his property, dead trees that about to fall into the creek, and erosion of the creek. All of these concerns are impacting his property. He proposes that the Township should purchase the lots for ongoing maintenance of the creek on these properties.

EAC opened discussion on the matters presented in public comment. EAC noted that there had been a prior recommendation made by the EAC requesting engineering analysis on the removal of the log jam.

A motion was made by Mr. Baldwin (**with emphasis**) and seconded by Mr. Hale to again send a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors (BOS) to review and request engineering analysis on the log jam in Jericho Creek with removal of debris that is impeding the creek and also request the Township Solicitor to look into the ownership issues for these properties. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Mr. Baldwin and seconded by Mr. Hale to approve the August 13, 2024 meeting minutes. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

### **TREE GRANT – 1004 COLONIAL DR – REVIEW FUNDING REQUEST – PROJECT UPDATE**

- Patricia Hritz of 1004 Colonial Dr. provided an overview of the status of the 25 trees granted by the EAC for reimbursement in 2023 to reforest her property, reporting the planting of a total of 42 trees last year, with the loss of only three of the plantings. She was returning on the EAC's recommendation in 2023 that she limit her request to 25 trees a year for reimbursement. She requested reimbursement of 25 additional trees through the Township Tree Grant program, which will exceed the per property yearly funding limit. Ms. Hritz's request for funding from the grant program will only include tree species on the Upper Makefield Township approved tree list. EAC discussion followed with comment on the success of her planting efforts thus far. The EAC invited Ms. Hritz back for approval of additional tree purchases next year.

A motion was made by Mr. Barfoot and seconded by Mr. Baldwin to approve funding for 27 additional trees, using the Upper Makefield Tree Grant program. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

### **BUCKS BEAUTIFUL PROGRAM – RECOMMENDATION ON USE AND BUDGET**

Ms. Magliocchetti provided an overview of the program and asked the EAC to consider offering further clarity on the plan for action and project ideas for the EAC engagement in this organization.

Discussion followed with the following topics:

- Yearly membership fee of \$75.00 was clarified.
- Budget recommendations were made to increase the EAC annual budget from \$2,000 to \$5,000 to allow for the funding of the program's annual fee and project implementation.
- Ms. Dorph clarified that all project costs with this program are a 50/50 cost investment with the Township and Bucks Beautiful.
- Ms. Dorph suggested fall tree planting. She further offered that sometimes the trees can be found for free. This effort could reforest the areas impacted by the ash tree disease, and their loss.
- Mr. Baldwin suggested planting efforts in the creek riparian no-mow zones.
- Suggestions of improvements to Brownsburg and Lookout Parks were discussed.
- Daffodil planting in parks and open space.

A motion was made by Mr. Barfoot and seconded by Mr. Baldwin to recommend an increase to the EAC annual budget to \$5,000.00 for 2025 to support EAC Bucks Beautiful program participation for 2025. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

A motion was made by Mr. Hale and seconded by Mr. Baldwin to recommend to the BOS to use 2024 EAC funds of \$75.00 to join Bucks Beautiful Program. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

### **COMMUNITY DAY – SEPTEMBER 21, 2024 – 10:00 TO 3:00 – PLANNING**

Ms. Dorph provided a presentation of an additional display to add to the EAC participation in the Upper Makefield Community Day event to include education on stormwater and green infrastructure and beech tree repair. Ms. Dorph also offered a tree give away from Power and Light that can be delivered for October 29<sup>th</sup>. Residents are to sign up on Community Day and the EAC members will hand out the saplings from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>. Ms. Dorph and Ms. Radow committed to pick up the trees for distribution. Mr. Hale and Ms. Dorph committed to attending Community Day to represent the EAC. QR codes for handouts were reviewed. EAC requested a 3<sup>rd</sup> table for display.

### **JERICHO CREEK LANDSTUDIES - REVIEW**

Ms. Magliocchetti provided an overview of the project and the discussion between EAC and the Township to engage the Township Engineers to review the Jericho “blue zone” to provide feedback and additional details on potential projects before engaging the property owners regarding Riparian Grant opportunities. Mr. Barfoot noted that this analysis would not prevent a resident in the “blue zone” from submitting a Riparian Grant application. Mr. Baldwin noted that when ready for a community meeting, he did have a resident who was willing to speak about their experience with the Riparian Grant process.

### **CHAIR REPORT**

#### **EAC Chair – Cathy Magliocchetti**

There was no Chair Report.

### **LIAISON REPORTS**

#### **Board of Supervisors – Ben Weldon**

Mr. Weldon provided Board of Supervisor status on the following topics:

- Moving forward with basin projects with HOAs.

#### **Planning and Zoning – Denise Burmester**

There was no P&Z Report.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Mr. Baldwin and seconded by Mr. Hale to adjourn the meeting at 8:31 p.m. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,



Denise Burmester

Director of Planning & Zoning

Approved: October 8, 2024