

Upper Makefield Township

Environmental Advisory Council Meeting

September 10, 2019 Meeting Minutes

The September 10, 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, Member Harry Barfoot, Member Cathy Magliocchetti, Member Tim Thomas and Member Jack Wiseman. Also in attendance were Board of Supervisors Liaison, Diana Nolan and Planning and Zoning Administrator Denise Burmester.

Confirmation of Quorum: Mr. Miller confirmed quorum.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

- A. **July 9, 2019:** A motion was made by Mr. Barfoot to approve the July 9, 2019 minutes with no amendments. The motion was seconded by Ms. Magliocchetti. The motion carried with an unanimous vote.

Discussion Items:

A. Sierra Club Training – Intro to Ready for 100 – Bucks County:

Mr. Miller introduced the Sierra Club Training – Intro to Ready for 100. This training is about renewable energy alternatives. Montgomery and Chester Counties are moving forward with this initiative. September 19, 2019 there is a meeting at Delaware Valley University for anyone who was interested.

Discussion turned to solar panels with the following items discussed and evaluated as a group:

- Township Ordinances and regulations for solar panels on the roof and ground array for placement of solar panels and ground arrays. Planning and Zoning to provide a copy of the Solar ordinance to the EAC members for further discussion at the next meeting.
- Different types of solar products were discussed to include the solar panels that look like shingles, and Tesla panels. This technology is quickly changing.
- Enhancement of the value of property with the installation of the solar products was discussed as a discriminating installation factor as well as zoning ordinances.
- The technology is quickly changing with an increased effort to develop technology that will return energy back to the grid and allow sharing of energy.
- The EAC does want to support efforts to use renewable energy, but do want to be realistic about how quickly and what costs are to move to renewable energy. EAC does want to be a voice to move to renewable energy.
- Township conversion to renewable energy to include the Township Buildings. The EAC member did discuss doing research on options and cost to move the Township buildings to renewable energy.

- They noted that there is a solar panel installed on the snack shop at Brownsburg Park. This solar panel was acquired as a promotional item offered by PECO as a reward for the Township's fuel efficiency efforts.
- The EAC did take on the research for renewable energy for the Township focusing on the following factors, with Mr. Wiseman and Ms. Magliocchetti taking the lead on the research:
 - Economic benefit of Solar panels for the current market solar panels.
 - Economic benefit for some of the solar technologies that are just emerging, such as the shingle panels.
 - Economic benefits of other renewable energy sources such as wind turbines.
 - Different cost saving programs, such as buy back options that may lower the initial investment requirements and ongoing costs.
 - How costs can be maximized with planned property renovations.
 - Installation of a ground array on Township property.

B. Electric Car Charging Stations:

Ms. Burmester spoke to how this topic was raised through the Township staff. The Township managers did have a brief discussion with PECO in a meeting of another topic. PECO suggested that cost benefits of providing electric car charging stations at the Township should be weight against several factors to include:

- Length of time most electric car owners are at the Township building to get a charge on their vehicle.
- How many Township fleet vehicles would utilize the charging stations.

EAC member discussed the following items regarding the electric car charging stations:

- Vehicle charge times will decrease as technology advances, increasing the value of the charging stations.
- Transition of Township fleet vehicles to electric technology might be a slow transition as the current fleet vehicles age out.
- Cost analysis would be needed to be done to find a vendor with an economic benefit to the Township to do the install.
- Washington Crossing Park has installed charging stations.
- Location of Upper Makefield Township buildings may be a bit too far off the major public access point to provide access to general public.
- Public safety concerns and liability would need to be understood.
- How the movement to electric vehicles could help reduce the carbon footprint.

C. Spotted Lanternfly – Public Awareness:

EAC members opened the discussion their personal experience with Spotted Lanternfly sightings. Ms. Burmester delivered a brief on a recent USDA status update to include the following points:

- USDA inspections have primarily focused on the following areas:
 - River Road area with some findings on residential as well as Township properties.
 - Taylorsville Road area with no evidence found.
 - Traditions community had no evidence.
 - Orchards at Jericho had no evidence.
- USDA treatment release form for Brownsburg Park has been forwarded to the Township for approval.

- USDA provided additional brochures for distribution to community.
- EAC member discussion included the following:
- Information dissemination to the community with ideas for this as follows:
 - Public mailing. Though costs were acknowledged for this option and how to limit the size of the mailing.
 - eBlast to residents
 - UMT TV
 - Website posting
 - An information table at election day and other public events.

D. Program for Public Information:

Ms. Burmester presented a sample product of a Program for Public Information committee from another community.

EAC member discussion:

- How the communication planning documented could be utilized for all committees beyond EAC and CRS.
- How to identify target audiences within the community to include new residents.
- How to include different voices and skill sets in the committee to include realtors.
- Possible community communication avenues and how to measure the effectiveness of these communication channels.
- Structure of a Program for Public Information committee. Planning and Zoning to provide additional information on the personnel requirements for this new committee.
- Concerns of time commitment for the committee. Planning and Zoning to provide requirements for PPI committee meeting frequency.
- Process to organize this committee, and that the BOS will need to form this committee.

Liaison Report:

A. Board of Supervisors: Diana Nolan:

- Township Building Renovation is moving forward to bids
- Budget discussions have started
- Continuing with road improvements

B. Park & Recreation: Cathy Magliocchetti:

- Meeting was held at Brownsburg Park. There are areas of No-Mow that need to be maintained, which may be beyond the Public Works capabilities.
- Walking path was completed but erosion problems continue to occur, interrupting accessibility of the path.
- The small Township parcel on River, south of Hough's creek is currently being maintained by public works. There are concerns that local neighbors are using this parcel for parking. The recommendation is to change this property to a No-Mow zone to reduce maintenance by Public Works and reduce the unauthorized public parking.

C. Planning & Zoning: Denise Burmester:

- Nothing to report.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

New Business:

A. Budget :

- a. Recommendation made to add budget to the EAC funding to maintain the public parks and the no-mow zone. An increase of \$1,000.00 to an EAC budget of \$2,500.00 total. No-mow zones will be maintained every other year in each park, with one park addressed each year. Members agreed to recommend the increase of the EAC budget to \$2,500.00.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Mr. Barfoot and seconded by Ms. Magliocchetti to adjourn the meeting at 8:33 p.m. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Approved: October 9, 2019