

Upper Makefield *Township*

Environmental Advisory Council Meeting

October 8, 2019 Meeting Minutes

The October 8, 2019 public meeting of the Upper Makefield Township Environmental Advisory Council was called to order by Chair Bud Baldwin at 7:00 p.m. In attendance were the following members of the Environmental Advisory Council: Chair Bud Baldwin, Member Harry Barfoot, Member Nicole Khan, Member Tim Thomas, and Member Jack Wiseman. Also in attendance were Board of Supervisors Liaison Diana Nolan, Planning and Zoning Administrator Denise Burmester, Supervisor Tom Cino, and members of the public.

Confirmation of Quorum: Mr. Baldwin confirmed quorum.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

- A. September 10, 2019:** A motion was made by Mr. Barfoot to approve the September 10, 2019 minutes with no amendments. The motion was seconded by Mr. Wiseman. Mr. Baldwin abstained. The motion carried with a 4-0 vote.

Follow-ups to items in the September 10, 2019 minutes:

- Charging stations – Mr. Wiseman will follow-up with PECO concerning:
 - Liability
 - Installation
- Solar – Mr. Thomas will provide Mr. Wiseman with contact information.

Land Development:

- A. Sol Feinstone Elementary School – 1090 Eagle Road – Land Development - Sketch Application:**

Mr. Baldwin explained that this is the first time the Sol Feinstone plans have been reviewed by the EAC, but he has seen them previously when reviewed by the Planning Commission and that the project will be done in phases with five classrooms being added.

Discussion followed including:

- Concern about the bus route, entrances, exits, and sports field.
- Suggestion to perhaps use green street instead of asphalt.
- Tree planting and creating a no-mow zone.
- Concern about the substantial increase of impervious coverage but it was noted that they will be required to handle stormwater, by adding basins, etc. as needed.

- Concerns of the width of the driveway at entrance and exit for overall safety and in case of a fire, removable bollards, island for in/out.
- Existing front landscaping to remain the same.

EAC recommendation to the Board of Supervisors is to include tree planting and no-mow zone along the creek.

Discussion Items:

A. Spotted Lanternfly - Public Awareness:

Since the Spotted Lanternfly is moving this way quickly it is important to take actions against their infestation. They are destroying trees and are a treat to local agriculture (vineyards, farms, strawberries, etc.). It is necessary to increase the level of awareness:

- Perhaps mailers can be sent to reach everyone, especially new residents.
- Money is budgeted for treatment, can also use the Tree Fund.

Public Comment:

Ms. Ingrid Johnson, resident of Heritage Hills, mentioned that Penn State's website has a lot of information on the Spotted Lanternfly, as well as options for control.

B. Mosquito Control:

Mosquitos pose concerns such as the return of the West Nile Virus and that pesticides used for control impact humans and pets.

Bucks County does spray for mosquito control as needed. Ms. Burmester to check into whether the County is spraying this year, and if so, where, when, and notification of sprayings.

Ms. Khan suggested using Bat Houses as a solution to mosquito control since bats eat mosquitos.

C. Program for Public Information:

Ms. Burmester presented information on the Program for Public Awareness (PPI) explaining that the PPI is established for the Community Rating System (CRS) and that Upper Makefield Township is part of the CRS. As such, the Township provides information to the residents on floodplains, flood insurance, etc. which results in lowering rates for flood insurance. A PPI committee needs to be formed. Perhaps the EAC can take on this role, instead of forming an additional committee?

EAC member discussion followed:

- What should be the method of communication / what's the best way to get the word out? The internet is not the answer as it often does not reach the older generation.

Other suggestions:

- Mailer using advertisers to offset the cost.
- Distribute information through Schools.
- Have HOAs provide information to homeowners.
- Set up a New Resident Committee, perhaps of volunteers, who would welcome new residents, introduce the Township, and advise of different issues, for

example what to do with grass clippings, etc. The committee can also ask the best way to communicate with them moving forward.

- Develop content once and distribute it several ways. Any mailings should be identified as from Upper Makefield Township in order to get recipients to open and read.

EAC members gave a unanimous recommendation to represent the PPI Committee for initial review.

D. Free Paper Recycling:

EAC member discussion as to whether to accept the offered paper recycling program:

- Concern that this would cause a mess at the collections sites.
- Normal trash pick-up service, that residents have already, includes paper recycling.

EAC members gave a unanimous recommendation to deny this program.

Liaison Report:

A. Board of Supervisors - Diana Nolan:

Solar Farm with not work at Mill Pond due to the usage requirements. It is zoned for active sports or farming. Pesticides used for farming is of concern.

EAC member discussion followed:

- This 18 acres is currently open space owned by the Township.
- Question posed as to whether zoning would allow for bees and bats. Would bees and bats fall under farming and meet zoning requirements?
- Bees must be maintained and therefore not practical.
- Bats take care of themselves.
- Solar Panels should be part of the 5 year capital plan and used for their ability to generate electricity not to raise money because the amount is minimal. More research is needed. Ms. Burmester added that Mr. Kuhns has been collecting information on solar for use at the Township Building.

B. Park & Recreation - Cathy Magliocchetti:

Ms. Magliocchetti was not present. No liaison report provided.

C. Planning & Zoning - Denise Burmester:

EAC recommends that the property on River Road should be a no-mow zone. Ms. Burmester to check with the Public Works Department to see who currently mows this area and look into discontinuing to allow for a no-mow zone.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Mr. Baldwin and seconded by Mr. Wiseman to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Approved: November 12, 2019.