

# Upper Makefield *Township*

## Environmental Advisory Council Meeting

### November 12, 2019 Meeting Minutes

The November 12, 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 Tim Thomas, Member Jack, and Member Cathy Magliocchetti. 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:**

Katherine Benson, an Environmental Engineer, new to Upper Makefield Township, voiced interest in joining the EAC. Mr. Baldwin mentioned that Mr. Thomas will be vacating the EAC. Ms. Benson was advised to put an application in come January 2020.

#### **Approval of Meeting Minutes:**

**A. October 8, 2019:** A motion was made by Mr. Thomas to approve the October 8, 2019 minutes with no amendments. The motion was seconded by Mr. Barfoot and carried by a unanimous vote.

#### **Discussion Items:**

##### **A. Green Region PECO Grant Opportunity:**

This is an opportunity for obtaining grant money to replant trees. Discussion followed:

- Perhaps use for replanting trees that were cut down for power lines.
- Weeds are a problem on some Township properties. Since budget for maintenance is not available, treatment to get rid of weeds must be aggressive. Options for removal are burning or chemical use, however Round-up is not recommended. Vinegar was suggested as an option.
- If grant received, trees can always be planted elsewhere if weeds remain a problem. EAC would decide location later.
- Perhaps offer to match from the Tree Fund. This is not required.
- EAC members will need to work with the staff to fill out the application. Deadline is November 30<sup>th</sup>.

EAC members gave a unanimous recommendation to advise the Board of Supervisors to proceed and pursue the PECO Green Region Grant Opportunity.

##### **B. Conservation Easement Monitoring:**

Ms. Burmester explained that Heritage Conservancy is getting started with the monitoring and expect to complete 1/3 this year. The purpose is to audit properties with easements to insure compliance.

**C. Spotted Lanternfly – Tree Advise:**

Spotted Lanternflies have been seen at Traditions and on River Road. Traditions' residents call when they see any and they come out and spray. Washington Crossing Winery has not been affected. They have been very vigilant in their inspecting.

Mr. Thomas voiced concern as to whether there's enough public awareness and whether residents know to call. A newsletter mailing was discussed and felt necessary since the email list is not inclusive.

Ms. Burmester mentioned that T&T Tree Company communicated to a resident that the Maple Tree may be next to be attacked. Replanting should be of trees that are not in jeopardy of being attacked such as the Norway Spruce, Black Gum, Sweet Gum, and the Evergreen Cryptomaria.

**D. Mosquito Control – County Information – Bat Houses:**

EAC members had the following questions about the use of Bat Houses:

- Can Bat Houses be put at the Park off Mt. Eyre?
- Can UMT Public Works build Bat Houses?
- Does Amazon sell Bat Houses? Probably at an approximate cost of \$20 to \$155.
- Can a biologist, perhaps a Township resident, analyze the effectiveness of Bat Houses?

Ms. Burmester reported that she followed up on questions brought up at last meeting concerning Bucks County's treatment for Mosquitos:

- It's been a couple years since treatment in UMT was completed. Monitors are in place checking the mosquito population / eggs, etc. and then a decision is made if treatment is warranted.
- Treatment involves three things: 1) Try to eliminate breeding spots and get rid of standing water. 2) Use a larva to eliminate eggs in standing water. 3) Spray as a last resort.

Discussion continued around ways that residents can eliminate mosquitos themselves:

- Use biodegradable sprays.
- Hire Mosquito Joe or other companies.
- Use round thing (from BJ's) that kills mosquito larva in bird bath but doesn't harm birds.
- Are ordinances in place for spraying? Mr. Baldwin to research ordinance and look into updating it.
- Health issues resulting from spraying?
- Drainage problems and standing water need to be addressed.
- Perhaps spraying for ticks is also needed. Services exist but effectiveness and safety is unknown.

**E. Ready for 100 - Clean Renewable Energy for Bucks County:**

Mr. Baldwin thanked Mr. Barfoot for going to this meeting concerning Renewable Energy.

Mr. Barfoot gave a quick summary:

- This was a meeting called by Doylestown EAC as a follow-up to one they had in September 2019. (Modified presentation is available on youtube.)
- Sponsored by the Sierra Club but anyone can attend. He represented Upper Makefield Township EAC. Many other nearby Township EACs were also represented for this initiative.
- Jim Baldassarre from Doylestown EAC, also a Sierra Club volunteer, ran the meeting.
- Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission reports as to the amount each Township spends on energy.
- There are a lot of things that can be done to improve energy use, such as LED lights, insulation, building codes and incentives, etc. however not much is actually being done.
- PECO will do free energy audits. They offer incentives to improve energy efficiency.

Discussion followed by the EAC Members:

- Solar panels, an energy improvement option, were seen as an eye sore originally which prompted an ordinance for installation to control appearance.
- Goal is to get resolutions passed showing the Township is committed to renewal energy.
- Need to create resident awareness of energy efficiency as well as what PECO offers.

**Liaison Report:**

**A. Board of Supervisors - Diana Nolan:**

Ms. Nolan reported:

- Mr. Tim Thomas will be the new Supervisor as of January.
- Ms. Kris Ballerini will be Treasurer of Bucks County come January therefore she will be leaving the Upper Makefield Township Board. Her spot will need to be filled.
- The budget passed with no tax increases and with a 5 year capital plan.
- Renovation of the Township Building will be on the next meeting's agenda.

**B. Park & Recreation - Cathy Magliocchetti:**

Ms. Magliocchetti reported that the Park & Rec did not meet due to lack of agenda items.

**C. Planning & Zoning - Denise Burmester:**

Ms. Burmester stated that there was nothing new to report. Mr. Baldwin requested that she research Bat Houses on Amazon.

**Adjournment:**

A motion was made by Mr. Barfoot and seconded by Mr. Wiseman to adjourn the meeting at 7:49 p.m. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

**Approved:** January 14, 2020.