

Upper Makefield *Township*

Environmental Advisory Council Meeting

February 11, 2020 Meeting Minutes

The February 11, 2020 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, Vice Chair Keith Miller, Member Harry Barfoot, Member Jack Wiseman, and Member Nicole Khan. Also in attendance were Board of Supervisors Liaison Ed Ford and Planning and Zoning Administrator Denise Burmester.

Confirmation of Quorum: Mr. Baldwin confirmed a quorum.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

- A. January 14, 2020:** A motion was made by Mr. Miller to approve the January 14, 2020 minutes with no amendments. The motion was seconded by Mr. Wiseman and carried by a unanimous vote.

Discussion Items:

A. Earth Day – Middletown Township:

Last year at the Upper Makefield Township table we provided:

- Bags. There are enough left to use for this year.
- Bird Feeders with Crisco and bird seed. Mr. Baldwin mentioned that this was a big hit, fun for the kids. Discussion followed planning the items needed to do this project again: Pinecones – Mr. Barfoot will collect from yards / Crisco and Bird Seed – Township will purchase / Twine – Ms. Burmester will check to see if enough is left from last year.
- Clean Water Bookmarks and Handouts.

A suggestion was made to do something for Spotted Lanternfly Awareness this year, perhaps handouts and bookmarks with opened and closed pictures of the Spotted Lanternfly. Ms. Burmester will bring samples of last year's bookmark and handouts to the next meeting.

Public comment: Ms. Kathryn Benson asked for an explanation of Earth Day.

Mr. Baldwin gave a brief synopsis explaining that it is sponsored by Middletown Township and that other Townships set up tables with activities and handouts. It's a fun community event including music, food, samples, etc. This year's Earth Day will be at Core Creek Park on April 25, 2020 from 11:00 to 2:00. Mr. Barfoot noted that he will not be able to attend this year.

B. Spotted Lanternfly Cost:

Mr. Baldwin mentioned that there are reports of Spotted Lanternflies being found on other species of trees, not just the Tree of Heaven.

Ms. Burmester reported that the Township Board of Supervisors did approve for Penn State to come out and do some treatment but nothing has happened yet. She will follow-up for status.

C. Doylestown Borough - Plastics:

Doylestown Borough will be hosting a meeting and movie screening of the documentary *Bag It*. Mr. Baldwin pointed that this event conflicts with the EAC meeting on April 14, 2020. Someone will need to commit to go the screening instead of attending the EAC meeting. This can be decided at the March meeting.

Liaison Report:

A. Board of Supervisors – Ed Ford:

Dr. Ford reported the following items:

- Commitment received from Geopedior to allow Land Studies to work on that section of the stream. The EAC will be involved. Dr. Ford noted that this is a five house development that is all part of settlement of the 10 acre property. Geopedior will also donate \$12k for the study (not renovations) of their section of the stream in lieu of the 600 trees they owe.

The EAC members discussed various sections of the stream, noting areas where remediation is definitely needed.

Mr. Baldwin confirmed that the Board is aware that Heritage Conservancy has started looking at the easements with 1/3 to be completed each year. Written reports from Heritage Conservancy need to be provided to the Township. Concern of the invasive walterford rose was also discussed.

B. Park & Recreation - Cathy Magliocchetti:

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

C. Planning & Zoning - Denise Burmester:

Ms. Burmester reported the following:

- Land Studies is moving forward with a proposal for preliminary design of the stream restoration, where they will sketch out the scope and width of the project to see how far the funds will go, hopefully all the way to the river, with focus on Geopedior and Patel property.
Mr. Baldwin asked whether there's a Bridlewood HOA, stating that part of the remediation project is the concrete pipes that are laying all over and have never replaced from previous floods.
- The Council Rock Zoning Hearing Board application was approved and is scheduled to go before the Board on March 17th for approval. EAC discussion followed about trees and their placement as well as previous EAC recommendations. Mr. Baldwin will bring plans to the March 10th meeting for the EAC to review and provide recommendations to the Board before their finalization. Additionally, the signage has also been changed and will not be the neon signs originally proposed.

- Washington Crossing Cemetery has plans to create new cremation crypts which they will present to the Board on February 18th. Questions followed concerning the look, location, quantity, impervious impact of the crypts, etc. Specific details are not currently available but will be part of their initial presentation.

The house has been sided and a barn roof installed. It will most likely be sold after the renovations. As for the log cabin, hope is that a non-profit group will be able to use it.

- Community Rating System has been submitted and approved for this year at the same discount level. Effort will be made to raise for next year to achieve a higher discount for residents especially those in the special flood hazard area.
- Township Building renovations continue. Additional insulation will be added to raise the R values. Ductwork will be repaired and a new boiler installed. This will increase efficiency and also save energy.

Ms. Khan shared her installation experience of Geothermal for Heat, Hot Water and AC as well as the energy and cost savings that resulted.

Additional discussion:

- Ms. Khan suggested that the Township should host something in addition to its standard historical events. Since the Toll Commission is opening the walkway to connect the two Washington Crossings in 2021, her idea is to organize a 1/2 marathon on the Canal that can take place in the fall. Several specific details were discussed, including entrance fees, distances, routes - ending at Washington Crossing State Park, etc. Funds generated would be split between the two canals and used for spring maintenance work noting that they currently have limited funding. Ms. Khan thinks this has the potential to be a major community event.
- Dr. Ford asked if anyone on the EAC objects to the idea of advertising volunteers who have many years of service to the Township as done in the recent newsletter featuring Karin Traina. In the past there were mixers, etc. but most events became cost prohibitive. Bring people in front of Board to recognize them for all their years of dedication. Ms. Khan suggested that there also be something permanent like plaques, perhaps leaves on a tree.
- Mr. Barfoot questioned the need for more volunteers. Dr. Ford assured that getting volunteers is not a problem; the Township currently has plenty of applications. Interviews are in process to fill open positions.
- Vintage Tech, in Langhorne, is exactly as advertised – a FREE electronics recycling facility, that’s clean, conveniently located, with easy parking. They even have carts available to use for large items. This should be advertised to all residents. A separate email should be sent to everyone and information should also be posted in an easy-to-find location on the Township website.
- Ms. Khan brought up the issue of Christmas tree disposal suggesting that the Township set something up so trees can be chipped instead of trashed. Space to do this may be a problem. Mr. Baldwin will discuss this with Bruce Scott, Public Works.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Mr. Barfoot and seconded by Mr. Wiseman to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 p.m. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Approved: March 10, 2020.