

# Upper Makefield *Township*

## Environmental Advisory Council Meeting

### August 11, 2020 Meeting Minutes

The August 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, Member Cathy Magliocchetti, and Member Kathryn Benson. Also in attendance were Heritage Conservancy Advisor Jeffrey Marshall, 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. **March 10, 2020:** A motion was made by Mr. Barfoot to approve the March 10, 2020 minutes with no amendments. The motion was seconded by Ms. Benson and carried by a unanimous vote.

#### **Discussion Items:**

- A. **Executive Session: Conservation Easement Review:** Mr. Baldwin suggested to go through the agenda quickly, close the meeting, and then go into Executive Session. Everyone agreed.

#### **Liaison Reports:**

A. **Board of Supervisors – Ed Ford:**

Dr. Ford reported that the David Library Property is now preserved, however Mr. Marshall clarified, stating that it's not yet official. Mr. Marshall added the following details:

- The property to be preserved is 118 acres (including all property between the Canal / River Road and the narrow strip all the way up Taylorsville Road) plus an additional 25 acres that is currently owned by Heritage Conservancy.
- The deed owner of the property will be the Department of Conservation, State of PA.
- Right now, no new houses will be built on the property, however the original easement, put on by the Agricultural Board, does allow for one house to be built. Currently there are no plans for building a house on the property.

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

Ms. Magliocchetti reported there are no updates at this time.

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

Ms. Burmester reported the following:

- More reports of the Spotted Lanternfly are coming into the Township. Mr. Barfoot is handling communication and information is included in newsletters. Discussion followed:

- Spotted Lanternfly reporting was for tracking purposes so there's no need to report sightings any more since the State is already aware that they are in Upper Makefield Township.
  - The State is providing treatment for areas of high concentration. Upper Makefield Township has asked for treatment at Brownsburg Park, but nothing has been done yet. The State's treatment is for public land.
  - Spraying is one suggested method of treatment. Homeowners are expected to take care of this on their own properties.
  - Ms. Burmester will resend information on what treatments are recommended by Penn State.
  - Mr. Ford mentioned that Smoketown and Wrightstown have Spotted Lanternflies all over the place. Mr. Baldwin added that he saw large concentration in Gilbertsville.
- Ms. Burmester, in reference to Ready for 100, reported that 57 properties in Upper Makefield Township have been permitted for solar panels since 2009, of which 14 were in 2020. Discussion followed:
    - Mr. Wiseman questioned whether there is a Federal Law stating that you cannot stop someone from installing solar panels. Traditions is considering prohibiting solar panels completely in their community but needs to know if this is a violation of any laws. Ms. Burmester will investigate to see if such a law exists perhaps with Dave Kuhns and/or Mary Eberle.
    - Upper Makefield Township's ordinance does allow solar panels although not on the front facing roofs of properties without proper documentation that this is the only viable location.
    - Traditions, even though a private property, is covered by the Township ordinance on solar panels.
    - Mr. Miller questioned the use of solar shingles vs solar shingles, as the shingle are less objectionable.
- EAC members briefly discussed the format for their next meeting (Zoom vs In-Person) and their preference was for in-person with masks, etc.

**Adjournment:**

A motion was made by Mr. Wiseman and seconded by Mr. Miller to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 p.m. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

**Approved:** December 9, 2020.