

Upper Makefield *Township*

Environmental Advisory Council Meeting

December 8, 2020 Meeting Minutes

The December 8, 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 Nicole Khan, and Member Kathryn Benson. 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. **August 11, 2020:** A motion was made by Mr. Wiseman to approve the August 11, 2020 minutes with no amendments. The motion was seconded by Mr. Miller and carried by a unanimous vote.

Discussion Items:

- A. **Lantern Fly Traps:** Penn State Extension provided 4 traps to the Township. EAC Members agreed to put the traps at the Parks and Township Building where residents can see them in use.
- B. **Tree Fund:** The EAC Members discussed how the Tree Fund originated and funded as well as are two possible uses for the monies currently in the fund:
1. **Tree Grant:** Discussion concluded to continue with the existing tree grant program but consider increasing the amount of reimbursement from the current \$25 per tree. EAC to research average tree costs.
 2. **Tree Giveaway:** EAC Members discussed the logistics for the handing out of trees to residents:
 - Perhaps order trees and have residents pick them up in the UMT Police parking lot as done previously.
 - Arbor Day Tree Give Away was done in the past. Perhaps Judy has a contact for ArborDay.org. They ran the giveaway previously. Cathy Magliochetti was very involved before so she may also have information on getting this set up.

Communication for these Tree Fund initiatives is of concern. Discussion followed on how to make residents aware that these programs exist:

- Dr. Ford will take the discussion to the BOS Meeting.
- Possible communication channels to utilize:
 - Send newsletters/eNewsletters
 - Mail postcards
 - Add bulletin boards at the Parks' bathrooms
 - Inform landscapers who do work in the Township
 - Make announcements at the BOS meetings
 - Approach large lots owners, for example the Methodist Church, about planting trees on their property

- Include in Tom Cino's Announcement Letter
- Add message on Tree Permits that Tree Fund is available.

C. Program for Public Information:

- Ms. Burmester explained that the Township's participation in the Community Rating System allows residents to get discounts on their flood insurance. The discount percentage is based on levels: higher levels allow higher discounts. Existing outreach programs as well as objectives were reviewed. Setting up a PPI would upgrade the Township's level, however getting it up and running is a lot of work.
- EAC Members are supportive of the PPI.
- EAC is willing to work with the Township to get the same level as Lower Makefield Township (15%, at least level 7). Perhaps UMT could reach out to LMT and request a conference call and/or a copy of their recertification submission.
- EAC asked that a CRS representation be invited to a meeting to provide an overview of the program and answer their questions.
- EAC requested information on the number of residents in Upper Makefield Township that currently have flood insurance and the costs.

D. Potential items for discussion at future meetings:

- Propane tank screening: Mr. Barfoot explained that generator permits require screening of both the generator and propane tank. Generator installation is the only place in the current Township ordinance that propane tank screening is required. For esthetics, other items (pools, etc.) should have the same screening requirements.
- Solar panels: Mr. Wiseman asked that the legalities of prohibiting solar panels be discussed with Mary Eberle. Mr. Barfoot mentioned solar technology has come a long way and that perhaps using solar panel rolls that look just like roof shingles would be a viable alternative and would preserve the appearance of properties.

Liaison Reports:

A. Board of Supervisors – Ed Ford:

- Board meetings have been Zoom format and relatively short.
- The most common issue is (potential) buyers who want to do additions to properties with impervious limitations. Mr. Miller asked if it's possible to require buyer acknowledgement of impervious limits at the time of settlement. Dr. Ford mentioned this was discussed previously with Mary Eberle but was never put in place due to various issues.
- Negotiations are still underway with Toll concerning Melsky.

B. Park & Recreation - Cathy Magliocchetti:

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

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Mr. Wiseman and seconded by Mr. Barfoot to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Executive Session to begin.

Approved: January 12, 2021