

# Upper Makefield *Township*

## Environmental Advisory Council Meeting

### February 9, 2021 Meeting Minutes

The January 12, 2021 virtual 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 Kathryn Benson, Member Nicole Khan, and Member Jack Wiseman. 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 12, 2021:** It was noted that Christina Groves was not included in the meeting attendees. A motion was made by Mr. Barfoot to approve the January 12, 2021 meeting minutes with the addition. The motion was seconded by Ms. Benson and carried by a unanimous vote.

#### **Discussion Items:**

- A. Community Rating System:** Mr. Baldwin asked about the status of CRS prompting a short discussion:
- Mr. Kuhns is verifying the new flood maps. He's not updating the FEMA maps but rather reviewing and comparing to current Township Open Space, etc. to see if any updates are needed. Ms. Benson mentioned that FEMA updates maps every so often and it's the community's responsibility to do their own review. She offered to help Mr. Kuhns with the review if needed.
  - CRS was mentioned in the eNews / Newsletter but so far no one has shown interest.
- B. Arbor Day Tree Distribution:** Mr. Baldwin said he spoke with Ms. Magliocchetti and she is willing to contact the Arbor Day Foundation. Since she is not in attendance, this is postponed.

Ms. Burmester mentioned that communication concerning the last Arbor Day, per Judy Caporiccio, was done successfully through eNews / Newsletter, discussion at BOS meetings, announcements at sports groups, schools, and business associations. The EAC members continued with discussion about tree planting:

- Mr. Baldwin agreed to announce Arbor Day at his businessmen meetings.
- 100 trees will be ordered for Arbor Day. Any trees that are left will be planted on Township property in locations determined by the EAC.
- Mr. Barfoot voiced concern that there may be only two trees or so left from Arbor Day which would not help the Township's replanting endeavors. He proposed ordering a large amount of trees earmarked specifically for Township property.
- Dr. Ford suggested approaching the Washington Crossing Cemetery about planting trees especially along the blank wall facing 532 and Highland Road.

- Mr. Barfoot mentioned that tree planting efforts may benefit from memorial plantings on Township owned land and suggested reaching out to funeral homes, etc.
- Mr. Baldwin stated that two trees have already been planted in Brownsburg Park as memorials.
- Mr. Wiseman explained that Traditions already plants memorial trees with plaques when someone passes from their community.
- Ms. Benson suggested that a memorial wall be created in the Township, maybe the Brownsburg Park bathroom wall, where plaques can be posted when memorial trees are planted. Funding of plaques would need to be resolved as this is not part of the Tree Grant Program.
- The School Board has agreed to the reforestation of Sol Feinstone School. The EAC should make recommendations for this.

**C. UMT Tree Grant Modification:** Mr. Baldwin asked Mr. Barfoot to take charge of this since he did a lot of the work early on. Discussion continued:

- **Brochure** – updates have already been done.
  - Mr. Wiseman questioned the reason for the November 30<sup>th</sup> submission deadline.
  - Since the Tree Grant is a continuous program, no deadline seems necessary.
  - Perhaps simply change the wording on the brochure to “submit to the Township as soon as possible” rather than by a specific date.
  - Ms. Burmester will check to see if there’s a financial or other reason for the previously established November 30<sup>th</sup> deadline date.
- **Township Tree Planting Recommendations:**
  - Funding will be out of Tree Fund.
  - Other planting that the EAC would like to do will be sourced from vendors mentioned in the brochure.
  - There are several areas in the Township that have lost trees and would benefit from replanting such as the Crossings, the Parks, the Gateways, etc.
  - Mr. Wiseman suggested that each EAC Member be on the lookout for areas needing trees from which a list of planting locations can be compiled at the March meeting.
  - Mr. Barfoot volunteered to contact the Park and also reach out to vendors.

**D. Meadow Management and Township Beautification:**

- The goal is to stop mowing areas whether it be by creating meadows or planting trees. EAC to decide what should be done with properties such as the 18 acres, etc.
- Aspects of Meadow Management were covered in the Doylestown class previously attended by some EAC members.
- Mr. Baldwin stated that he was contacted by Ann Woodbury from Doylestown Township’s EAC who was impressed with UMT’s tree program.
- Dr. Ford suggested reforestation new land acquisitions. For example, contact Mr. Brick about planting trees there, especially the back piece on Aqueduct Road.

**E. Earth Day:** Middletown Township was contacted, however they have not yet responded.

- F. Propane Tank Policy:** Mr. Barfoot explained that ordinances concerning screening of propane tanks are not consistent. Screening is specifically noted as required for generator propane tanks but not for those of other projects. Planning Commission will discuss the screening discrepancy with Mary Eberle and proceed with putting together a recommendation for the Board.
- G. Holly Pond Property Review:** Mr. Baldwin clarified that Holly Pond is the farm on Van Sant Road which had a dispute with the neighbors. Dr. Ford reminded the EAC members of some issues of the dispute: number of horses, storage, manure, pond runoff into stream, etc. Although it has been settled, the owner is anxious for the EAC to walk his property to review and provide recommendations on some items he has in mind (50 foot no-mow area and culvert from barn to pond). Mr. Baldwin said that due to the inclement weather, the EAC will wait until spring.
- H. New Business:** Ms. Benson asked whether the EAC still needs to review the Newtown Area Jointure Comprehensive Plan that was postponed at the last meeting. After a short discussion, EAC Members agreed that they need to review the shorter 16 page document and either formalize the plan or make recommendations for changes. The Comprehensive Plan will be added to next month's meeting agenda for discussion.

**Liaison Reports:**

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

The floodplain issue was fought all the way to the Supreme Court and lost. The Board praised the EAC for securing the Brick property. They also questioned why there was a limitation on Arbor Day.

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

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

**C. Planning and Zoning – Denise Burmester:**

The department continues to be busy with permits. CRS is a priority.

**Adjournment:**

A motion was made by Mr. Wiseman and seconded by Mr. Barfoot to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

**Approved:** March 09, 2021