

Upper Makefield *Township*

Environmental Advisory Council Meeting

April 12, 2022 Meeting Minutes

The April 12, 2022, public meeting of the Upper Makefield Township Environmental Advisory Council was called to order by Chair Kathryn Benson at 7:00 p.m. In attendance were the following members of the Environmental Advisory Council: Chair Kathryn Benson, Vice Chair Harry Barfoot, Member Bud Baldwin, Member Jack Wiseman, Member Catherine Magliocchetti, and Member Keith Miller. Also in attendance were Board of Supervisors Tim Thomas, and Yvette Taylor, and Zoning Officer Denise Burmester.

Confirmation of Quorum: Ms. Benson confirmed a quorum.

Public Comment: Mr. Thomas commented the clean-up went well on Taylorsville Road. Suggested maybe an annual event.

Sunshine Act Review: No comment.

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

- A. **March 8, 2022:** A motion was made by Mr. Wiseman and seconded by Mr. Baldwin to approve the March 8, 2022 meeting minutes with no changes. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Riparian Items:

A. LandStudies Proposal of Services

EAC member discussion included the following points:

- Property owner engagement:
 - Agreement among EAC members that cooperation and coordination with property owners is needed.
 - Property owners previously approached at the North End of Jericho Creek were not pleased with the approach and impact to their property with the number of trees to be removed. These property owners were not willing to engage in a solution. Continued discussion that the property owners upstream are not having difficulty with flooding or erosion, therefore, are not engaged in changing anything for the properties at the bottom “with” the problems.
 - Redesign done in conjunction with the property owners, engaging them in the design process, might be a better approach. EAC members may engage the property owners in these discussions.
 - Where the property owners are willing to engage might be better areas of focus even if they are not at the North Side of Jericho Creek.
 - Members stated that there is still a problem finding homeowners to participate in the proposal. There are property owners that were never approached regarding this.

- Members recalled the BOS requirement, when this grant proposal was started, of a 5-0 vote to move an application forward. This requirement shelved the applications due to falling short on this vote at the time. Recommended the BOS needs to re-engage property owners thru the website to see if there is any interest. It was also agreed this should be done prior to any LandStudies activity (Concentration on Jericho Creek).
- Costs:
 - Members would like an understanding of the costs to updated instream solutions in areas that have the greatest impact.
 - Members requested costs associated with a high velocity model or walking the stream to understand the places that cause impact and to the extent of tweaking the original proposal numbers or streamline the areas of Jericho Creek.
 - Members noted that if the cost exceeds the funding, additional funding sources would need to be identified. Members discussed additional funds available from Congressman Fitzpatrick's office and have deadline submissions by April 29th. Existing funds can be used as matches for grants.
 - Ms. Benson will follow up on deadlines. Time is of the essence. She will contact Dave Nyman to set up conversation with State/Federal funding sources (suggestion American Rivers may be a funding source).
 - Engaging LandStudies in grant coordination not to exceed \$5,000.00.
- Design:
 - Suggestion to go back to LandStudies to redo the scope of work.
 - Members noted the need for new concepts for the entire creek, looking at new BMPs to slow the flow.
 - Suggested that LandStudies look at alternative techniques for holistic approach, crossing instream rock formation with permanent vegetation, which was not previously considered.
- Focus of Work:
 - Members felt that only working on at the South end of Jericho Creek would not offer long term solutions.
- Time Frame:
 - Members would like to see effective work completed in the next one to three years.

A motion was made by Mr. Barfoot and seconded by Ms. Benson to go forward with a meeting with LandStudies to review the proposal. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

B. Bridlewood Farms Stormwater

- Stated no additional updates yet.
- Members suggested to ask BOS to approach Bridlewood to have the HOA repair the drainage pipe as it is a liability issue.

Members want the following stipulations recommended to the Board:

1. Review deficiencies identified by the EAC and note that the walking of the property by the Engineering Department, validated stated deficiencies.

2. Notice to be sent to HOA and provide a period of compliance prior to the next discussion.

A motion was made by Ms. Benson and seconded by Mr. Barfoot to go forward with contact to Bridlewood Farms HOA to make necessary changes. Motion was carried by a unanimous vote.

C. McHale/Gill - Jericho Creek 1312 River Road - Riparian Grant

- Members questioned if there should be communication to McHale/Gill to advise them that the HOA is going before the BOS to consider further changes to the creek. It was agreed that the Township staff, under Ms. Burmester, will contact them to make them aware.
- It was noted that the Township does have an open application from 2011. They agreed not to introduce more fees for this.

D. Hibbs – Houghs Creek – 1250 Green Street – Riparian Grant

- EAC agreed to table the application, as it was opened 2007, update recommendations in 2009, and still open.

A motion was made by Mr. Baldwin and seconded by Ms. Magliocchetti to table the conversion. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Discussion Items:

A. Open Space Analysis

- Ms. Benson asked if there is a portfolio with Land Preservation Plan for appropriate use of open spaces. Mr. Barfoot stated that 40% is protected land (no build zones), 5064 acres of open space. Suggested to update map and look at Township owned space and determine how to vest and use the space. Agreed to only use Township space and not impinge on private property to make any changes.
- It was suggested to look at Municipal Park Plans for Open Space.
- It was stated that the funds for open space have been depleted. Question was raised asking if Heritage Conservancy is still inspecting conservation easements. Would also like confirmation that the Township has funding available to continue these inspections.
- Mr. Thomas suggested to look at David's Library property. He will speak with the Park Liaison to check into that. Concern for area between Taylorsville Rd. and the canal.
- Ms. Benson spoke about concern for the Mt. Eyre land. Mr. Thomas stated that there is no support from the residents to give additional public access, as he resides there. There was a suggestion for planting trees for water retention. Mr. Thomas felt the area is meadow-like at present, so adding to that is not going to be helpful. Discussion continued regarding the water table and effects on the area.
- A property owner in Mt. Eyre wants to put a pool on their property and is concerned about waters entering his pool. Suggestion was to have a berm. Felt there was no need for the Township to re-address with new approach, to support a single property owner's property improvement plan.
- It was noted that the 2009 Open Space Plan is available on the UMT website.

- Mr. Baldwin stated the county has funds to purchase open space on White Tract but has not been done. And questioned what the next step would be?

A motion was made by Ms. Benson and seconded by Mr. Barfoot to have the Heritage Conservancy provide copies of the inspection results to the Township and forwarded to the EAC. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

B. Review of the Tree Grant Native Tree List

- Ms. Benson sent out Bowman’s Tree List to Board. Reimbursement refers to trees only.
- It was agreed to formally adopt the Bowman’s Wildlife Tree List and if a resident wants reimbursement for something “not” on the list, they can appeal to the request to the EAC for approval.

A motion was made by Ms. Benson and seconded by Mr. Barfoot to adopt the Bowman’s Wildlife Tree List and allow residents to appeal to EAC if item is not on the list. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

C. Earth Day

- EAC Members who will attend Earth Day are: Mr. Barfoot, Mr. Baldwin, and Ms. Magliocchetti. Ms. Benson will be there late. Mr. Wiseman will attempt to come.
- Mr. Thomas asked if a high school student can volunteer and help to get credits. EAC Members suggested that they could not approve volunteer credits. Council Rock School District website should be referenced for volunteer events.
- Discussion continued regarding all the things needed for the event (table, pinecones, Crisco, banner, string/twine, cloth bags, tablecloths, easel, etc.). Ms. Benson will bring the native plant brochures. She also suggested laminated QR codes for information instead of flyers to link back to assorted websites.
- Ms. Burmester will check for bookmarks regarding Water Quality.

D. Charging Stations

- Mr. Wiseman mentioned that there were two vehicle charging stations across from the Museum. He noted that there was no place to pay for them. He called and was told that they are free and will be installed in every State Park.
- Mr. Thomas stated that there is a concern that charging stations can be erected anywhere, due to no civil ordinance regarding them. JMZO would need to be changed/updated.
- Ms. Benson mentioned that there are free federal monies for crosswalks and ramps, and to keep in mind when looking for funding needs.

Liaison Reports:

A. Board of Supervisors – Dr. Edward Ford:

- No report

B. Park and Recreation – Kathryn Benson:

- She reviewed the Park and Rec survey sent out looking how resident responses could be used for EAC. There were 529 responses (6% response rate).

C. Planning and Zoning – Denise Burmester:

- Working on a Sustainable PA Community Certification.

- Ms. Burmester noted the uptick in residents along Jericho Creek with concerns about the rising creek waters on the South end of the creek at Taylorsville Road and Stoneybrook Road.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Mr. Wiseman and seconded by Ms. Benson to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Approved: May 10, 2022

Por /DB/TB