

Upper Makefield *Township*

Environmental Advisory Council

Tuesday, September 13, 2022 Meeting Minutes

The September 13, 2022 public meeting of the Upper Makefield Township Environmental Advisory Council was called to order by Chair Kathryn Benson at 7:02 p.m. In attendance were the following members of the Environmental Advisory Council: Chair Kathryn Benson, Vice Chair Harry Barfoot, Member Bud Baldwin, Member Nicole Khan, Member Cathy Magliocchetti, and Member Jack Wiseman. Also in attendance were Township Supervisor Dr. Ed Ford, Planning & Zoning Director Denise Burmester and Administrative Assistant Ashleigh Somershoe.

Public Comment:

Elizabeth Etzkorn, resident of 109 Pond View Drive, Washington Crossing, PA 18977. Ms. Etzkorn stated that a previous drain in her yard was modified without prior notice and said she'd be opposed to any parking lot at the Township Mt. Eyre property, as this would have people parking next to her house. She stated she would be agreeable to paths to allow children to move back and forth from the Park area. She requested that in the future, the neighbors be involved in decision making for this area.

Confirmation of a Quorum: Chair Kathryn Benson confirmed a quorum.

Approval of Minutes:

August 9, 2022

A motion was made by Mr. Baldwin and seconded by Mr. Barfoot to approve the August 9, 2022 meeting minutes. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Discussion Items:

LandStudies Proposal / Determine "Scope of Work" so LandStudies can prepare a proposal for BOS Consideration

- Discussion followed with the following topics:
 - Moving forward to have the BOS contact Land Studies for a Proposal regarding the bid for surveying Jericho Creek from Brownsburg East to the River.
 - It was noted that the BOS has approved the moving forward with this and the wording to Land Studies needs to be specific.
 - The properties for focus were discussed. There were three properties previously proposed for focus. The discussion resolved that the properties to be focused upon should be determined by Landstudies recommendations and the result of the Resident survey for participation. Landstudies should not be limited to 3 properties for their analysis and proposal.

- Focus of the Landstudies proposal was discussed and concluded that the focus should be with the following goals:
 - Reduction of velocity and reduction of flood damage to properties.
 - Reduction of water quantity
 - Improved water quality
- Suggestion of Two Phases to be implementation:
 - Phase I - Priority List
Feasibility of what can be done and where can be done. (Reference to the “Blue Areas” on map from LandStudies) with the result being a project priority List with no restrictions, no property interests, etc.
 - Phase II – Designated Property Design
Based on LandStudies findings, move to conceptual design with the participating property owners, and then set a dollar amount necessary to complete the project.

A motion was made by Mr. Baldwin to ask Landstudies for a proposal with a focus eliminating flooding in the Blue from Brownsburg Road East to the River with Phase I property priority and Phase II conceptual design for properties that have expressed an interest via the resident riparian survey. Mr. Barfoot seconded. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Live Staking Project

Discussion followed with the following topics:

- Moving forward with a letter of intent to Penn State Extension to get into queue, as the demand for live staking is expanding.
- It was decided that the EAC will be the ones to make the official request. They will make a motion with 3-4 locations for the live staking and send to Penn State Extension for evaluation and commitment for March 2023. The following areas will be submitted:
 - * Patel Property
 - * Lookout Park
 - * Penn State Extension Choice (Caroline’s decision)

The EAC will conduct an Upper Makefield Watershed Day to get volunteers to help with this effort.

A motion was made by Ms. Kahn to move forward with a letter of intent to Penn State Extension to get into queue for live staking. The motion was seconded by Mr. Barfoot. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Riparian Resident Communication Plan / must include Staff

It was stated that the EAC needs to issue a statement to the property owners and see who is willing to participate. Mr. Barfoot volunteered to draft the letter. The desire is to move this

communication concurrently with the LandStudies work so the Township is ready to make determinations on the designs to move forward with. Mr. Barfoot agreed to have the letter drafted before the next meeting. The desire is to move the communication forward quickly within 10 days of approval of the draft.

At present Sycamore Farms HOA and Patel Farm have already been contacted.

Riparian Grant Applications Pending

McHale/Gill – Jericho Creek – 1312 River Road – Riparian Grant

No discussion

Chair Report:

EAC Chair – Kathryn Benson

No report

Township Mt. Eyre Property:

Robert Rupp, Chairman of the Parks & Rec. Committee provided an overview in regard of the Mt. Eyre Township property, stating there are no immediate plans for that area.

Discussion followed with the following topics:

- Ms. Benson, Ms. Kahn, and Mr. Rupp were on site the past weekend and it was determined that not much can be done at this point from a tree prospective as it wouldn't change the cover there. Decision was made to address this in the future along with a possible Dog Park concept.
- Ms. Kahn reiterated a conversation with an agriculture specialist who indicated to just leave it alone, stop mowing and let it naturalize. There was agreement among the EAC members that the Public Works should be notified to leave as a no-mow area and then assess after a year of growth.

A motion was made by Mr. Baldwin seconded by Ms. Kahn to approve the revisit Mt. Eyre area in the future and to recommend the 18 acres in Mt. Eyre a no mow area and to allow it to naturalize. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Liaison Reports:

Board of Supervisors – Dr. Ed Ford

Dr. Ford provided Board of Supervisor status on the following topics:

- Mt. Eyre It was noted by Dr. Ford, that he had gotten involved in the Mt. Eyre property discussions in 2000. At that time, a farmer was accused of killing the trees with the sprays. etc. There is a continuing problem of the neighbors' throwing debris on that property. Dr.

Ford noted that the naturalization is not a good fit, he feels that replantation of trees is a better concept, as they would create a canopy. Stated 500 trees can be purchased for \$50.00. Large trees are not required for planting. He noted the need to continue the discussion between EAC and Park & Rec. subcommittee.

- Dr. Ford showed a sample of European Hornets – They are an invasive species. They have migrated from Massachusetts. They only fly at night. These hornets can be destructive, with stings and property damage with their hive. (Informational only)

Planning and Zoning – Denise Burmester, Zoning Officer

Ms. Burmester provided Planning and Zoning status on the following topics:

- Noted that there is a Go Green Grant that comes up annually, and at present the Township has no project to attribute to use. Suggested for future restoration or repair projects.
- Reported that Community Rating System number has dropped to level 8 therefore, giving a discount to residents for flood insurance. Properties in the Special Flood Hazard area will receive a 10% discount. Properties that are not in the Special Flood Hazard area will receive a 5% discount.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Ms. Benson and seconded by Mr. Baldwin to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 p.m. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Approved: October 11, 2022