

Upper Makefield Environmental Advisory Council

March 14, 2023 Meeting Minutes

The March 14, 2023 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 Edward Hale, Member Cathy Magliocchetti, and Member Jack Wiseman. Also in attendance were Township Supervisor Dr. Ed Ford and Planning & Zoning Director Denise Burmester and Planning & Zoning Administrative Assistant Ashleigh Somershoe.

CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM

Chair Kathryn Benson confirmed a quorum.

PUBLIC COMMENT

John Miles, 3 Milyko Dr. Washington Crossing, PA. 18977, introduced himself as an interested Homeowner with environmental training, volunteering to help wherever necessary with the Jericho Creek and other projects.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There was a technical issue with the minutes, so they will be approved at next meeting.

RIPARIAN REVEGETATION

JMZO – Article IX §903.B.13.g

Ms. Benson provided an overview of the applications requesting general recommendations for revegetation and buffers required by the Ordinance and State Regulations.

- Committee discussed revisions to Ordinance. Agreed to review closely. Hold meetings in small groups (no more than 3 EAC Members) to formalize a revegetation plan on behalf of Upper Makefield Township.

A motion was made by Ms. Benson and seconded by Ms. Magliocchetti to approve establishing a subcommittee to do further review of the riparian zone ordinance and revegetation. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Live Staking

Mr. Barfoot provided an overview of the applications requesting the live staking with Penn State. Discussion followed with the following topics:

- Walk-thru with Penn State and recommendations were made as to types of planting that would be favorable for each area viewed.
- It was agreed that Township would postpone until next year, due to erosion problems.
- Proposed a general communication and public meetings for homeowners to present the LandStudies proposal. (July communication for Fall planting) The hope is to engage 2 or 3 homeowners of suggested area for remediation and revegetation. Also, to contact specific homeowners of delegated area directly.

A motion was made by Mr. Barfoot and seconded by Ms. Benson to propose to hold off on Live Staking in March 2023 to commence at a future opportunity once the communication is shared with

the public regarding this. (July 2023 communication for Fall planting) Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

LANDSTUDIES PROPOSAL

Mr. Barfoot provided an overview of the report sent by LandStudies and reviewed at the February 14, 2023 meeting.

- Grant opportunities were presented at a summary of grants and types of grants by Ms. Benson. A subcommittee to be formed to work through grants.
- Suggestion to engage Township Engineers for help.
- Draft of BOS Proposal to be prepared for review at the April 11th meeting. EAC is targeting the April 18th Board of Supervisors meeting for presentation of the EAC approved proposal.
- Public Communications were discussed to include a public meeting in the proposal targeted for July of 2023 to communicate additional details of LandStudies designs. There was a suggestion to reach out to individual property owners with small group meetings following the public meeting to discuss solutions to the individual properties. A suggestion was also made to have a letter drafted by the EAC to announce the public meeting.
- EAC would like to be on the BOS agenda with the proposal and recommend for the second BOS meeting in April. There was a suggestion to include contacting public and specific homeowners regarding the restoration process as a part of this proposal.

Committee agreed to get onto BOS agenda with a proposal focusing on the material presented by LandStudies and recommendation for action.

439 BROWNSBURG RD – RESIDENT CONCERNS

John Ryan, 447 Brownsburg Road Newtown, PA 18940 provided concerns of the application for Sub-division of 489 Brownsburg West.

Discussion followed with the following topics:

- He reiterated his concern regarding existing water problem from wetlands and Creek.
- Committee reviewed suggestions for recommendations for planting plan to help with water drainage and suggest riparian needed for the plan.

LOWER DELAWARE WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS PARTNERSHIP

Ms. Benson provided an overview of the motion to send to the Board of Supervisors a resolution for the inclusion into the project by Lower Delaware Wild and Scenic River Partnership.

A motion was made by Ms. Benson and seconded by Mr. Barfoot to request the Upper Makefield Township Board of Supervisors to pass a resolution supporting the Lower Delaware Wild & Scenic River (LDWSR) committee's project to add an additional river segment below the Washington

Crossing Bridge, Hough's Creek and Jericho Creek to the April 2000 Congressional Act and Public Law 106-418. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

UPPER MAKEFIELD EARTH EVENT

Ms. Benson provided an overview of the status of Earth Day and not participating in the event in Middletown this year.

Discussion followed with the following topics:

- Suggestion to have Upper Makefield Day, to include all Committees of UMT be represented.
- Thoughts were to plan for the Fall of 2023.
- Sub-committee will contact Township Committees to get participation to the event. They will then present to the BOS for allowance to move forward.

CHAIR REPORT

EAC Chair – Kathryn Benson

There was no Chair Report.

LIASION REPORTS

Board of Supervisors – Dr. Ed Ford

There was no BOS Report.

Planning and Zoning – Ashleigh Somershoe

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

- Walk-thru at River Crossing with Mr. Kovalchik. Planning & Zoning is having difficulty coordinating a time with him as he often travels. Suggested to make the appointment for walk-thru as the homeowner does not have to be there.
- Ms. Benson, and Mr. Hale volunteered for walk-thru with Ms. Somershoe on March 24, 2023@ 11:00 am to 12:00 pm.
- Gill/McHale have been proactive regarding grants.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Ms. Magliocchetti and seconded by Mr. Barfoot to adjourn the meeting at 8:57 p.m. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,



Denise Burmester

Director of Planning & Zoning

Approved: April 11, 2023