

Upper Makefield Environmental Advisory Council

April 11, 2023 Meeting Minutes

The April 11, 2023 public meeting of the Upper Makefield Township Environmental Advisory Council was called to order by Chair Kathryn Benson at 7:03 p.m. In attendance were the following members of the Environmental Advisory Council: Chair Kathryn Benson, Member Bud Baldwin, Member Cathy Magliocchetti, Member Eddie Hale, and Member Jack Wiseman. Also in attendance were Township Solicitor Will Oetinger, and Planning & Zoning Officer Denise Burmester.

CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM

Chair Kathryn Benson confirmed a quorum.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Tim Thomas of 134 Glenwood Dr. commented on the community “Trash pick-up day” which occurred on 4/1/23:

- They gathered 24 bags of trash.
- Mr. Thomas commented that the need for more volunteers is essential, and he will address the communication on these efforts for next year.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

February 14, 2023

A motion was made by Mr. Baldwin and seconded by Ms. Magliocchetti to approve the February 14, 2023 meeting minutes. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

March 14, 2023

A motion was made by Mr. Hale and seconded by Mr. Wiseman to approve the March 14, 2023 meeting minutes. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

TREE GRANT VARIANCE – HRITZ – COLONIAL DRIVE

Patricia Hritz of 1004 Colonial Dr. provided an overview of the applications requesting Tree Grant Variance.

Discussion followed with the following topics:

- She stated she lives on 10 acres and has lost over 100 trees due to the Emerald Ash Borer.
- She bought her property 19 years ago. She provided a map delegating 4 areas of where the trees have been dying off. In area #1 alone she suffered the loss of 45 trees. She has planted 21 trees so far this year and has been working with Chad Wagner from Sav-A-Tree and the local nursery to plant the correct trees in the right areas so they can thrive. Assurance of care and watering was expressed and her firm belief of building a legacy by rebuilding the forest area.
- She had acquired tree saplings from the Arbor Society that have been nurtured and are growing well.

- She requested consideration for additional tree allowance for her large property, approximately 50 trees. She was advised to stay away from Oak trees due to disease.
- Cost estimate per tree comes to \$81.00 x 50 trees = total of \$4,050.00. She would like to start this week until mid-June with planting. Suggested to do this task in phases. It was stated that Area #2 should be addressed first along the street to encourage Community view of what is being done.

A motion was made by Mr. Baldwin and seconded by Ms. Benson to approve the allowance for 25 trees for the first phase. Mr. Wiseman suggested follow-up in a year for additional trees. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

RIPARIAN REVEGETATION – SUB COMMITTEE UPDATE

Ms. Benson provided an overview of the PADEP recommendations.

Discussion followed with the following topics:

- Definition of the Riparian Zone was reviewed.
- Does Ordinance conform with DEP recommendations?
- The Sub-Committee will schedule a meeting to review the Ordinances and provide recommendations at the next EAC meeting.

RIPARIAN GRANT – RIVER CROSSING HOA, EAGLE RD., AND WOODSIDE LN. – SUB COMMITTEE UPDATE

Eddie Hale provided an overview of the walkthrough at 50 Woodside Lane. He was accompanied by Denise Burmester and Ashleigh Somershoe from Planning and Zoning Department, and Katriana Kovaliak, resident at 50 Woodside Lane.

Discussion followed with the following topics:

- He stated there was a lot of growth and build up in the pond, especially after Hurricane Sandy in 2012. Many trees have been lost. The pond is fed from 2 tributaries, from Jericho Mountain and the drainage point from the pond on the opposite side.
- The HOA owns the property where the pond resides.
- Daniela Kovalick, the homeowner on the pond at 50 Woodside Lane, stated her family is engaged with this process and offered the following history:
 - The pond was originally man-made by the previous farm owner. The pond used to have a large population of fish and now has significantly decreased due to the erosion, thus making it smaller and the fish are not surviving.
 - It was stated that there are a lot of phragmites growing, which should not be growing in the pond and are invasive.
 - She is looking to restore the pond to its past resilience. She is requesting erosion control and dredging of the pond so it can be restored to health. It is used by Sol

Feinstone School for exploration by the children. She stated there is 96 acres of protected land and is open to the public. She requested recommendations and help for this project.

- The members discussed that the erosion must be addressed before any dredging can take place
- The members would like to offer tree grants to neighbors upstream to re-establish the trees and help with erosion.
- The members agreed on an action that the applicant should put in a Riparian Application.

LANDSTUDIES PROPOSAL – REVIEW BOS PRESENTATION / RECOMMENDATION

Ms. Magliocchetti provided an overview of the proposal/review of the BOS presentation/recommendation. Discussion followed with the following topics:

- Discussion commenced regarding concern in regard to the Township recommending 3 Engineers to applicants. It would not be in our best interest to do so. It was agreed to remove the notation regarding the Engineers’ recommendations from the recommendation.
- The remainder of the recommendation remained as drafted.

A motion was made by Mr. Hale and seconded by Ms. Benson to approve removing the verbiage from the sentence beginning with “lastly” to the BOS action request section. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

This will proceed to the April 18th BOS Meeting. Mr. Hale will update the letter and send it to the group for approval.

LOWER DELAWARE WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS PARTNERSHIP – PIDCOCK CREEK AMENDMENT

Ms. Burmester provided an overview of the Upper Makefield resolution to be presented to the BOS. Discussion followed with the following topics:

- The addition of two-tenths of a mile segment of Pidcock Creek to the resolution by Robert McEwan plans and he will be at the meeting to present.

A motion was made by Mr. Baldwin and seconded by Ms. Magliocchetti to approve the resolution as presented to submit to the Board of Supervisors. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

UPPER MAKEFIELD EARTH EVENT – DRAFT PROPOSAL REVIEW

Ms. Benson provided an overview of Upper Makefield Day. Discussion followed with the following topics:

- Discussed getting the word out to residents regarding all happenings in Upper Makefield at the event. This is to include Park and Recreation, Trash pickup, Sports openings.
- Some activities/invitees discussed:
 - Bowmans Wildlife Preserve
 - Audubon Society
 - Pickleball Tournament
 - Composting Demonstration
 - Fire Department River Boat
 - Spring is the opening for Patriot sports at Brownsburg Park and may be a good time to do the event. Recommended that UMT Day to be set for April 20th or April 27th annually.

A motion was made by Mr. Baldwin and seconded by Ms. Magliocchetti to approve locking in of the third Saturday in April for Upper Makefield Day at Brownsburg Park and this will be coordinated with UMT Committees and Community. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

CHAIR REPORT

EAC Chair – Kathryn Benson

Ms. Benson provided EAC status on the following topics:

- Mow or No Mow park properties. For No Mow Zone – How often are they to be mowed by the Township? Discussed cutting back in the Fall and that the area will not be cut every year.
- Spring 2024 (before UMT Day – mid-March) Brownsburg and Lookout Parks and Mt. Eyre will be mowed in the “no-mow” zones.
- Suggested to make the “Trash Pick-up Day” as the 3rd Saturday in March annually, to beautify UMT. This should be coordinated with Public Works.

A motion was made by Ms. Benson and seconded by Mr. Hale to recommend that for 2023 there should not be any maintenance to the no-mow areas at Brownsburg and Lookout Parks, with no-mow maintenance at these parks to commence Mid-Spring 2024 on an annual basis (March), further there will be no scheduled maintenance for the no-mow areas at the Mt. Eyre Park for 2023 or 2024.

LIASION REPORTS

Board of Supervisors – Dr. Ed Ford

There was no BOS Report.

PLANNING AND ZONING –

Zoning Officer - Denise Burmester

Ms. Burmester stated no additional updates to report regarding McHale/Gill property. Still looking for Federal funding. Ms. Burmester has reviewed the property with FEMA regarding flood plains, etc.

PARKS & RECREATION

- Moving forward with Pickleball Court plans.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Wiseman and seconded by Mr. Baldwin to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,



Denise Burmester
Director of Planning & Zoning
Approved: May 9, 2023