

# **Upper Makefield Environmental Advisory Council**

## **August 8, 2023 Meeting Minutes**

The August 8, 2023 public meeting of the Upper Makefield Township Environmental Advisory Council was called to order by Chair Kathryn Benson at 7:10 p.m. In attendance were the following members of the Environmental Advisory Council: Chair Kathryn Benson, Member Eddie Hale, Member Nicole Khan, and Member Cathy Magliocchetti. Also in attendance were Township Supervisor Dr. Ed Ford, Township Supervisor Tom Cino, Township Supervisor Ben Weldon and Planning & Zoning Officer Denise Burmester.

### **MOMENT OF SILENCE**

To honor those who were lost in the Township and to acknowledge the first responders and all help during the storm of July 15, 2023.

### **CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM**

Chair Kathryn Benson confirmed a quorum at 7:20 p.m.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Michael Carver of 10 Stonebridge Crossing Rd., Newtown, spoke to the tragic events on Washington Crossing Road. Mr. Carver suggested installing an Early Warning System for Taylorsville Road and Rt. 532 to warn of storms in the future. Mr. Carver also raised concerns with private stormwater systems, the maintenance of the systems, the design of the systems, and property maintenance of the community that may not support stormwater management.

Kevin Holmes of 476 Stoneybrook Rd., Newtown, stated concern for the trees coming down in Jericho Creek and the importance of ongoing maintenance to clear creek debris as preventive measures. Mr. Holmes also discussed the need for access to the Parks and Creeks via the addition of trails or medians on the road.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

#### **June 13, 2023**

Deferred, no quorum.

#### **July 11, 2023**

Deferred, no quorum.

### **RIPARIAN GRANT – LOWE – 19 AQUEDUCT**

Jereme Lowe of 19 Aqueduct Rd., Washington Crossing, provided an overview of the application requesting Riparian Grant relief. Mr. Lowe prepared a presentation to walk through his concerns and experience with the flood events on July 15, 2023.

Discussion followed with the following topics:

- Stated four (4) major floods in the last eight (8) years (2017).
- Concern for Public Safety.
- Property images before, during, and after storms.
- Community Stormwater Management System monitoring.

- Road Culvert construction.

EAC, Staff and Board of Supervisors Liaison all qualified that the Township is actively working on the recovery efforts from the storm event on July 15, 2023. There are also County, State and Federal resources engaged in the efforts, as they have been through the Emergency Event and as the Community moves forward.

Discussion included the following:

- Videos and pictures are extremely valuable for scientific study and they appreciate the efforts the Lowes made in capturing the event.
- EAC conveyed that it is important that every resident take stormwater management seriously, there is an impact to stopping stormwater runoff on each individual property and the EAC continues to move forward with efforts to educate the residents to this important message.
- History was shared by the Board of Supervisors Chair to illustrate the Township's dedication to managing the stormwater within the Township. Impervious space ratios as defined in the Ordinance are not a subject the Township has any interest in compromising and that no Township does MORE for stormwater measures than Upper Makefield Township.
- Reforestation was discussed as a stormwater measure that the Township has always encouraged, offering an Individual Tree Grant Fund to property owners who plant native trees on their property. Additionally, the Township actively engages property owners of large properties to consider planting trees for reforestation.
- Recommendation that residents continue to engage State and Federal representatives in the recovery conversation.

### **LANDSTUDIES PROPOSAL – RESIDENT PRESENTATION**

Ms. Benson read LandStudies Memo regarding their engagement for help with the Community Workshop for the Jericho Creek review. Concerns aired that the workshop is Jericho centric and analysis for Hough's Creek was completed in 2017 and might be considered for representation.

A motion was made by Ms. Khan and seconded by Mr. Hale to engage LandStudies to include the entire watershed and to be taken directly to the BOS. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

The EAC discussed funding and resourcing possibilities for the monitoring of the Township basins and stormwater systems.

Discussion followed with the following topics:

- The Township currently does monitor stormwater systems via the MS4 program. This program ensures more than just inspections, by community education and ongoing stormwater planning efforts.
- Awareness and diligence of surface water runoff management needs to be as much of an awareness of the community as creek flooding.
- Analysis of Retention Basins, inspections and review of all Township and property owner's stormwater BMPs. Resources to help with BMP survey or inspections.

- Possible resources to inspect and maintain the stormwater systems on individual properties, beyond reliance on property owners to maintain their property.

A motion was made by Ms. Magliocchetti and seconded by Mr. Hale to the BOS request Township Engineer for discussion of BMP monitoring to understand monitoring today within the Township. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

### **CHAIR REPORT**

#### **EAC Chair – Kathryn Benson**

Ms. Benson provided EAC status on the following topics:

- 18 acres subcommittee to look at Mt. Eyre Park (reactivated).

### **LIAISON REPORTS**

#### **Board of Supervisors – Dr. Ed Ford**

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

- Trails in Township are always property owners who are against it due to traffic to bring down property values.
- Walk stream for reforestation.
- Approach Methodist Church regarding reforestation.
- Encourage that there is an effort to clean debris out of stream. Dr. Ford's observations are that there are bridges with debris impeding the flow of water under them.

#### **Planning and Zoning – Denise Burmester**

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

- The department is busy with recovery efforts, working with property owners and other agencies to support the residents.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

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

Respectfully submitted,



Denise Burmester  
Director of Planning & Zoning  
Approved: October 10, 2023