

Upper Makefield Environmental Advisory Council

July 11, 2023 Meeting Minutes

The July 11, 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 Bud Baldwin, and Member Nicole Khan. Also in attendance were Township Supervisor Dr. Ed Ford, and Planning & Zoning Director Denise Burmester.

CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM

Chair Kathryn Benson confirmed a quorum.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Anthony and Christine Tammaro of 107 Pondview Drive stated concern for the 18-acre lot property on Walker Road that is owned by the Township. They stated before they purchased their property that backed up to the open space, they had discussed with their realtor how this property would be maintained. They were told it would be mowed every 2 years which did occur for about 15 years, then it stopped. Then they contacted the Township and were told that it was taken back to one time per year. However, last year it was not mowed at all. They saw a huge difference in wildlife (field rats, ticks, moles). They are concerned for the health and wellbeing of themselves and their neighbors. The growth of weeds is overwhelming, spreading on to properties. Their daughter was diagnosed in the Fall with Lyme Disease and Babesiosis. They are requesting that it be mowed twice a year and reiterated that it has nothing to do with esthetics but with health hazards. The Council stated they will consider their request and noted that the no mow decision was made due in part to stormwater run-off causing property damage in the community.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The approval of the June 13, 2023 meeting minutes was held until the next meeting due to no quorum.

LANDSTUDIES PROPOSAL - COMMUNICATION PLAN & RESIDENT PRESENTATION

Mr. Barfoot provided an email he sent to the EAC on Thursday, June 15, 2023 (after the last meeting). Mr. Barfoot's email provided an account of the funding of the Township's Riparian Grant Program and the projects completed thus far. He made recommendations on content for presentation at the Community Workshop that the EAC is planning, as well as what properties he felt should be the target of riparian restoration projects. Mr. Barfoot also expressed his thoughts on funding sources.

Ms. Benson also read into record an email expressing thanks to Mr. Barfoot for his analysis efforts. She expressed support of his target properties and her concerns with proper protocol for resident engagement in the riparian restoration grant process.

A motion was made by Mr. Baldwin and seconded by Ms. Khan to approve the addition of the emails to the minutes. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Ms. Burmester provided an overview of the flyer/communication to residents. The committee members liked the "straight-forward" message.

Discussion followed with the following topics:

- LandStudies involvement – Ms. Burmester to reach out to LandStudies for estimate of cost for their attendance.
- Strategies to ensure community participation at the workshop.

A motion was made by Mr. Baldwin and seconded by Mr. Barfoot to approve the changes to the flyer for distribution to the residents. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

LOWER DELAWARE WILD & SCENIC RIVERS PARTNERSHIP - REVISED RESOLUTION

Ms. Benson discussed going forward with the revised resolution. Ms. Burmester reviewed the areas that would be included in the resolution.

A motion was made by Ms. Khan, seconded by Mr. Baldwin, and third by Mr. Barfoot to approve the changes to update the language of the resolution to include the additional areas, to be sent to the BOS for approval. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

CHAIR REPORT

EAC Chair – Kathryn Benson

There was no Chair Report.

LIAISON REPORTS

Board of Supervisors – Dr. Ed Ford

There was no BOS Report.

Planning and Zoning – Denise Burmester

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

- Riparian Buffer Zone – Currently being worked on. Looking to extend to 100 ft. from 80 ft.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Baldwin, seconded by Ms. Khan, and third by Mr. Barfoot to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,



Denise Burmester

Director of Planning & Zoning

Approved: October 10, 2023