

Upper Makefield Environmental Advisory Council October 10, 2023 Meeting Minutes

The October 10, 2023 public meeting of the Upper Makefield Township Environmental Advisory Council was called to order by Vice Chair Harry Barfoot at 7:00 p.m. In attendance were the following members of the Environmental Advisory Council: Chair Kathryn Benson, Vice Chair Harry Barfoot, Member Eddie Hale, Member Nicole Khan, and Member Cathy Magliocchetti. Also in attendance were Township Engineer Larry Young, Planning & Zoning Officer Denise Burmester and Planning & Zoning Administrative Assistant Ashleigh Somershoe.

CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM

Vice Chair Harry Barfoot confirmed a quorum.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

July 11, 2023

A motion was made by Ms. Benson and seconded by Ms. Khan to approve the July 11, 2023 meeting minutes. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

August 8, 2023

A motion was made by Mr. Hale and seconded by Ms. Khan to approve the August 8, 2023 meeting minutes. Mr. Barfoot abstained. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

September 12, 2023

A motion was made by Mr. Hale and seconded by Ms. Magliocchetti to approve the September 12, 2023 meeting minutes. Mr. Barfoot abstained. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

ENGINEERING UPDATE, LARRY YOUNG (TRI-STATE) – JULY 15TH FLOOD EVENT

Larry Young of Tri-State Engineering provided information on the July 15th Flash Flood.

Discussion followed with the following topics:

- The Township requested residents report cost assessments on damage caused by the storm. These are being collected and recorded.
- September 13th Township reached out to Perry Warren, Steve Santarsiero, and Brian Fitzpatrick offices regarding damages to residents in Houghs Creek area. There preceded a tour of the area. Concern was voiced regarding the debris on the banks, and if another storm hits may push debris into creek thus blocking culverts and drains.
- Kyle from Brian Fitzpatrick's office is looking into Federal funds (PEMA/FEMA).
- Mr. Santarsiero's office is looking into "Growing Greener" funding sources.
- October 25th Pre-application meeting with DEP scheduled. This meeting will include the following agency resources:
Army Corps, DEP mid-section Chief, a Biologist, and a Hydrologist along with the Representatives and Congressman to discuss different areas within the Township that received

damage (Brainstorming Session). Hoping for data exchange. EAC inquired if it was appropriate for them to attend the DEP meeting.

- The Township is currently working with DEP on permits and permissions to remove debris fields.
- Discussion of creek damming due to fallen trees. Past actions by PECO took down trees and PECO left them by roads, etc. causing “damming” problems. When dams are found on private properties, the Township does notify the resident. Property owners usually handle them quickly.
- The unprecedented 7” of rain in 45 minutes on July 15th overwhelmed the stormwater systems. DEP and PENNDOT design requirements for stormwater does not require designs that would handle this size storm.
- When considering any stormwater measures, upstream watershed is always considered to determine design. Houghs Creek watershed is quite large, extending to the backside of the Melsky Tract.
- LandStudies and Pickering-Corts creek studies and analysis have been forwarded to DEP to assist in understanding the Township situation.
- Discussion began for moving toward the future with measures for a safer community.

Mr. Cino relayed the Township dedication to the recovery of damages to residents relating to storm problems on multiple categories and that there is a common goal to rectify this. However, the main direction is to move the water faster so this past damage will be averted.

**RIPARIAN GRANT – LOWE (19 AQUEDUCT RD) & YOUNG (11 AQUEDUCT RD) –
SITE VISIT BRIEF – RECOMMENDATION ON BENEFIT TO RIPARIAN CORRIDOR
AND REMEDIATION**

Rachel Lowe, Jennifer Hitchner, and David Young presented an overview of the Riparian Grant application.

Discussion followed with the following topics:

- Ms. Lowe raised concerns regarding the maintenance and monitoring of basin health in the Township.
- Ms. Lowe stated their goal with the bridge project is to move the water off their property and reduce safety issues.
- The Members explained how studies are required to have upstream and downstream implications averted. The question was raised as to how the changes at these properties will impact downstream properties and need to be considered in the design and analysis.
- Discussion continued regarding the flow of water thru the Rt. 532 culverts, which is designed, installed and maintained by PennDOT, as this is a state road.
- Discussion turned to the flow of water on Aqueduct Rd. Ms. Lowe stated that the stormwater runoff is primarily coming from the properties across Aqueduct Road and properties on Dolington Acres Rd.

- EAC inquired if the property owners were pursuing State or Federal Grants. They stated that they only had plans to move forward with the Riparian Grant. They requested feedback from the EAC who had walked the property, acknowledging that some of the members who walked the property were not at the meeting.
- EAC suggested that the applicants should simultaneously reach out to the Watershed Masters of Penn State for their help with plantings.

A motion was made by Mr. Hale and seconded by Ms. Magliocchetti to approve the moving forward application of the Riparian Grant. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

CHAIR REPORT

EAC Chair – Kathryn Benson

There was no Chair Report as she had left the meeting.

LIAISON REPORTS

Board of Supervisors – Mr. Tom Cino and Mr. Tim Thomas

Mr. Cino provided Board of Supervisor status on the following topics:

- 2024 UMT Budget. He stated that the budget is ready and can be adopted at the next Board of Supervisors meeting to be out to the public 30 days after adoption.

Mr. Thomas provided Board of Supervisor status on the following topics:

- Water issues in Mt. Eyre.
- Explained that the decision was made not to cut the Park.

Planning and Zoning – Denise Burmester and Ashleigh Somershoe

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

- Delaware Canal – Drawdown Notice received from DCNR.
- Bridge rebuild happening at Amber Beech Kennels.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Hale and seconded by Ms. Magliocchetti to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 p.m. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,



Denise Burmester
Director of Planning & Zoning
Approved: March 12, 2024