

Upper Makefield Environmental Advisory Council

March 12, 2024 Meeting Minutes

The March 12, 2024 public meeting of the Upper Makefield Township Environmental Advisory Council was called to order by Vice Chair Harry Barfoot at 7:02 p.m. In attendance were the following members of the Environmental Advisory Council: Vice Chair Harry Barfoot, Member Carolyn Dorph, Member Ellen Radow, Member Eddie Hale, Member Cathy Magliocchetti, and Member Jack Wiseman. Also in attendance were Township Solicitor, Sean Duffy, Esq., Township Engineer, Jacob Rigg and Planning & Zoning Director, Denise Burmester.

Introductions commenced of the present committee and additional Township Staff.

CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM

Vice Chair Harry Barfoot confirmed a quorum.

RE-ORGANIZATION OF COUNCIL

Cathy Magliocchetti was nominated for the Chair position by Mr. Hale and seconded by Mr. Wiseman. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Harry Barfoot was nominated for Vice-Chair position by Mr. Wiseman and seconded by Mr. Hale. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Hale and seconded by Mr. Wiseman to approve the October 10, 2023 meeting minutes. Ms. Dorph abstained. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

RIPARIAN GRANT – PROCESS REVIEW – SEAN DUFFY

Mr. Duffy provided an overview of the application process for the Upper Makefield Township Riparian Grant. Mr. Duffy explained how the process works and how funds can be used was provided.

The following points were discussed regarding the Riparian Grant Application process that is detailed in Resolution 2013-08-20:

- EAC review and site visit by two (2) EAC Members based on a resident's request for application.
- A preliminary design is submitted by the applicant showing plantings and stream bank repair, if applicable, along with an estimate of costs. The Township Engineer will review.
- Township Engineer's review is reviewed and discussed by the EAC to evaluate how the repairs will benefit the riparian corridor as a whole. The EAC makes a recommendation to the applicant on the filing of a formal application.
- The applicant files a formal application to the Township.

- The EAC reviews and discusses the formal application, resulting in a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors regarding funding to be advanced to the applicant to provide for Consultant and Engineering to submit a more intricate design as to what they are looking for.
- The Board of Supervisors will consider the presentation of Riparian Grant application and the EAC recommendation for decision on the funding of further discovery with the applicant's consultants.
- If approved by the Board of Supervisors, the applicant will provide additional details of the project to prepare for a bid process for the work.
- The Township Engineer will review the additional details submitted with a recommendation regarding moving forward with a bid to be considered for recommendation by the EAC and decision by the Board of Supervisors.
- If the bid details are approved, the bid process will move forward with the grant applicant. Three separate bids are required for Township decision.
- The Board of Supervisors will make a decision on a request for funding based on the bids and the Township engineer's review of the bids.
- If project funding is granted, the applicant has one (1) year to complete the construction of the Grant Plan.
- It was noted that the level of approval must be unanimous by the Board of Supervisors.
- Questions were raised as to the range granted in the past and what would be a maximum cost? Mr. Duffy stated that there is no maximum to the Grant.

RIPARIAN GRANT – ENGINEERING FUNDING REQUEST – 11 & 19 AQUEDUCT ROAD

The Township Engineer, Mr. Rigg, provided an overview of the funding request for 11 & 19 Aqueduct Rd.

Discussion followed with the following topics:

- The applicant has received a cost estimate of \$20,000.00 from their design engineer to replace the existing driveway and enlarge the culvert.
- The Township Engineer issued a letter of review with three (3) comments as follows:
 - Cost estimate provided did not include a detailed estimate of the full project. For example, there was no cost estimate for the earth moving part of the project for the bridge or grading, landscaping needs.
 - The submission did not provide enough evidence that the repairs will be of benefit to riparian corridor as a whole.
 - The submission did not include DEP & Army Corp of Engineers permitting and engagement.

Mr. & Mrs. Lowe stated the following:

- Looking for recommendations from Township.
- Looking for a bigger solution more than just their culverts.
- They state inadequacies of stormwater management systems in the area of their property and their impression that the Township inspections have not been regular.
- They are requesting a broader solution for the Township as a whole.

- The applicant is looking for EAC recommendations and guidance on next steps for completion of the application.

The EAC suggested that the applicant's engineer's suggestion of a hydraulic study in their cost estimate is required to gather data to support the benefit to the corridor community.

The EAC questioned the \$10,000.00 cost of such a HECRAZ study (H&H). The Township Engineer recommended that the stated H&H study cost of \$10,000.00 seems light, but would require additional information on the scope of the study.

The EAC recommended the applicant share the Township Engineer's review with their design engineer regarding and the additional information requested in the review.

The EAC members stated that the release of grant funding requires the EAC to have an adequate understanding of the total project to allow them to make a recommendation. The EAC recommends that an H&H study is needed for this project. The study would provide the information necessary for the EAC to make a recommendation and the BOS to make a decision.

A motion was made by Mr. Hale and seconded by Mr. Barfoot to approve the funding of the H&H Study, provided that there is a clear and reasonable cost estimate presented to the Board of Supervisors for consideration of approval. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

MEMORIAL BUTTERFLY GARDEN AT BROWNSBURG PARK FOR JULY FLASH FLOOD VICTIMS

Tom Cino, a member of the Board of Supervisors, provided an overview of the concept of a Township Memorial Butterfly Garden at Brownsburg Park in memory of the July 2023 flash flood victims.

Discussion followed with the following topics:

- Communication with the families of the victims and having them involved in the process.
- Maintenance will be handled by the Township and landscaping will be outsourced after approval of plan and cost by EAC.
- Suggestion to have an educational component available.
- The topic will be brought to the April 8th Park & Rec. Committee Meeting at Brownsburg Park.
- Requested that there be additional joint meetings to advertise regarding this.

A motion was made by Mr. Hale and seconded by Mr. Wiseman to approve the additional joint meeting with EAC and Park & Rec Committee and to advertise this to the public. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

CHAIR REPORT

EAC Chair – Cathy Magliocchetti

Ms. Magliocchetti provided EAC status on the following topics:

- Reach out to Bounty Beautiful to plant daffodils by an EAC member. Membership is required as a Township. The cost is \$150.00 per year. Committee questioned whether a personal donation to the Township is allowable.

A motion was made by Ms. Radcliffe and seconded by Mr. Barfoot to approve that Ms. Dorph gather additional information regarding this and report it back to the Committee at the next meeting.

Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

- Budget suggestions for the budget planning this year for:
 - Conservation Easement monitoring
 - Stormwater Management.

LIAISON REPORTS

Board of Supervisors – Ben Weldon

Mr. Weldon relayed that the Board is thankful for the work being done by the EAC in moving things forward.

- Flooding issues continue to be a priority. The BOS continues to search out grant funding opportunities to assist.
- The Washington Crossing Bridge project by the Delaware River Bridge Commission is also being discussed at the BOS meetings and several actions have been taken by the BOS through resolution.

Board of Supervisors – Tim Thomas

Mr. Thomas provided an overview and explanation for the Township Trash Pick-Up Day scheduled for March 23, 2024.

Discussion followed with the following topics:

- It was noted that this is the third (3rd) year for this project.
- Volunteers will meet at the Firehouse .
- The Public Works truck will be available along with assistance from the Upper Makefield Police.
- Suggestion to obtain list of all organizations that had volunteered and are publicized as adopting Township streets for cleanup.

Mr. Thomas opened discussion on a Community Day at Brownsburg Park set for Saturday, September 21, 2024 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

- Composting exhibit suggested.
- EAC will present stormwater management and tree planting.
- There will be baseball, basketball and tennis tournaments occurring the same day to draw the community.
- Mr. Thomas will be the point person for advertising.
- Discussed budget for saplings for the event. Suggested to contact Bucks County Conservation District regarding obtaining the trees.
- Live staking information to be provided at the event with an invitation to Penn State.

Discussion commenced regarding the airport noise with anticipated expansion of the airport. It was stated that this is under the jurisdiction of the FEC.

Planning and Zoning – Denise Burmester

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

- Debrief of the October 25th DEP meeting:
 - The meeting was interagency and included representatives from DEP, PennDOT, Army Corps of Engineers, Congressman’s Fitzpatrick’s Office, State Senator Santarsiero’s Office, State Representative Warren’s Office, Upper Makefield Township.
 - The following potential projects and discussion points were discussed at the meeting:
 - Hough’s Creek Debris removal
 - DEP explained potential permits required.(This week, the Township received permit approval from DEP)
 - Discussion of the debris removal process and recommendations from agencies regarding the debris removal process.
 - River Road streambank stabilization
 - DEP explained potential permits required.
 - PennDOT requested to be engaged in the design of any solutions due to proximity to bridge and roadway.
 - Hydrologic study required for impact assessment prior to any work being approved or undertaken.
 - Erosion and Sediment Control planning required as well for permitting approval.
 - 11 & 19 Aqueduct Road
 - DEP noted a general permit GP11 would be required for the bridges.
 - PennDOT requested to be engaged in the design of any solutions.
 - This creek area has not been studied by FEMA.
 - Hydrologic study required for impact assessment prior to any work being approved or undertaken.
 - None of the agencies had any historic records of flooding in this area of the creek.
 - Washington Crossing Road Gravel Bar/Loose Shale Removal
 - DEP noted a General permit GP3 would be required.
 - DEP defined parameters for the work area that would be allowed for gravel bar removal.
 - No historical data was available on past flood events in this area.
 - Pineville Road Pedestrian Bridge Repair
 - DEP permits would be required for repair. GP3 could be used if bridge replaced in kind.
 - No history of riparian work being done in this area.

- Grant Funding
 - Representatives from the elected officials at state and federal levels were present in the meeting. Grant requests were made at every project discussion by the Township.
 - Recommendation from representatives to look into the Growing Greener grant program and Federal Highway Administration for projects but admitted that the projects on private property may disqualify the projects.
 - Once the projects are further defined, it was recommended that there is another outreach to the representatives for grant availability.
- Flyer from PA Department of Agriculture, “Be Wise when you Fertilize”, regarding the use of fertilizer.
- Electronic disposal event at Solebury Township.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Ms. Magliochetti and seconded by Mr. Barfoot to adjourn the meeting at 9:06 p.m. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,



Denise Burmester
Director of Planning & Zoning
Approved: June 5, 2024