

# Upper Makefield Environmental Advisory Council

## June 5, 2024 Meeting Minutes

The June 5, 2024 public meeting of the Upper Makefield Township Environmental Advisory Council was called to order by Vice Chair Harry Barfoot at 7:04 p.m. In attendance were the following members of the Environmental Advisory Council: Chair Cathy Magliocchetti, Vice Chair Harry Barfoot, Member Bud Baldwin, Member Carolyn Dorph, Member Eddie Hale, and Member Ellen Radow. Also in attendance were Township Supervisor Yvette Taylor, Township Supervisor, Tom Cino, and Planning & Zoning Officer, Denise Burmester.

### **CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM**

Vice Chair, Harry Barfoot confirmed a quorum.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Ms. Dorph and seconded by Ms. Radow to approve the March 12, 2024 meeting minutes (with amendments as stated). Mr. Baldwin abstained. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

### **BUCKS BEAUTIFUL PROGRAM – UPDATE - RECOMMENDATION**

Carolyn Dorph provided an overview of the Bucks Beautiful Program.

Discussion followed with the following topics:

- Membership cost is \$125.00.
- Grants can be applied for bulbs and tree planting. 50/50 Grant
- Advantages of membership entitles you to help with maintaining the gardens, help with plants for the gardens. Also, will connect to other environmental organizations for marketing, advice, etc. This can help with Community education and with planting also.
- A contact person would need to be chosen.

A motion was made by Mr. Hale and seconded by Mr. Baldwin to recommend to the Board of Supervisors that Upper Makefield Township become a member of the Bucks Beautiful Program and to use the EAC budget to do so. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

### **COMMUNITY DAY - EAC PLANNING**

Mr. Barfoot explained what Community Day had been in the past. EAC will participate.

- Saturday, September 21, 2024, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. @ Brownsburg Park
- Activities for EAC presentation mentioned:
  - Tree planting – applications available
  - Information on native plantings
  - Master Watershed and Master Gardener information
  - Children’s activity to make pinecone bird feeders
  - Bucks Beautiful program information

- Map display to include Open Space and Watershed Information
- Composting Exhibit
- Sapling Trees from BCCD (Ms. Dorph will check into)
- Penn State Live Staking Information
- Items needed for setup for EAC:
  - 2 big tables
  - Easel to show maps
  - Pinecones for children activity
  - Handouts:
    - Bowmans native tree list
    - Riparian Grant application
    - Tree Grant application
    - Information for planting trees and deer protection
    - CRS pamphlets

### **RIPARIAN FUNDS – NEXT STEPS – EAC DISCUSSION**

Ms. Magliocchetti explained the reasoning for further discussion:

- Communication Plan – decision to stay with the Jericho Creek until completion before extending the purview.
- No funding is currently available for the LandStudies projects identified.
- The Township Engineer is doing an analysis in the Houghs Creek tributary.
- Discussion continued regarding engaging resident participation upstream.
- Riparian Grant applicants are required to obtain estimates prior to submission of an application for funding from the Riparian Grant Fund.
- Recommend setting up a community meeting and also suggestions of one-on-one meetings.

### **CHAIR REPORT**

**EAC Chair – Cathy Magliocchetti**

Ms. Magliocchetti provided EAC status on the following topics:

- Attended Middletown Earth Day. Very well attended. Trees were distributed at the event by various organizations.

### **LIAISON REPORTS**

**Board of Supervisors – Yvette Taylor.**

Ms. Taylor provided Board of Supervisor status on the following topics:

- Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission (DRJTBC)– Washington Crossing Bridge Replacement Project: Encouraged residents’ attendance at the meetings discussing the RFP for the future projects relating to the Washington Crossing Bridge.
- The Township has authorized Jeff Marshal to apply for Historic Properties designation on several properties in Washington Crossing.

- Supervisors are having a ZOOM call with Legislators of PA and NJ to discuss the community's shared concerns.
- The Environmental Impact Statement is under discussion to ensure it is included in the analysis by the Bridge Commission RFP.
- DRJTBC has been invited to the Board of Supervisors meetings to discuss the project with the Upper Makefield community, but they have yet to accept the invitation.
- The EAC expressed budget concerns and considerations, recommend that the Township hire the proper consultants to be able to review all environmental assessments provided from the DRJTBC - Washington Crossing Bridge Replacement project.

A motion was made by Ms. Radow and seconded by Mr. Barfoot to recommend that Upper Makefield Township budget for professional services to review documents related to all aspects of the environmental impact provided by the Bridge Commission analysis. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

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

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

- Recurring Loss Property CRS Letters have been successfully sent out to the property owners.
- Hazardous Waste Events – June 29<sup>th</sup> Central Bucks HS / Aug. 10<sup>th</sup> Bensalem HS / Oct. 26<sup>th</sup> Strayer Middle School

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Mr. Hale and seconded by Mr. Barfoot to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,



Denise Burmester  
Director of Planning & Zoning  
Approved: July 9, 2024