

Lower Makefield Township
Environmental Advisory Council
January 8, 2020
Meeting Minutes

Present: Barbara Baus, Chair; Jim Bray; Alan Dresser; Kevin Gallen

Also, in attendance were Frederic Weiss, BOS Supervisor, and Pennsbury students, Dylan Tchang, Ben Tchang, and Ben Hess, who were at the meeting to discuss the Green New Deal.

The January 8 meeting of the EAC was called to order at 7:45pm. The first order of business was to welcome Mr. Weiss as the incoming Liaison for the EAC.

Approval of December Minutes – Mr. Dresser moved to approve the December 11, 2019 EAC minutes, with amendments, and the motion was passed unanimously.

EAC 2020 Election

Linda Salvati was elected Chair and Kevin Gallen vice-Chair, congratulations!

Green New Deal Resolution – Dylan Tchang, Ben Tchang, and Ben Hess, as members of the Sunrise Movement Club in Pennsbury High School, have been working on a Green New Deal resolution. They presented it to the BOS at their December 4 meeting, and were asked by the BOS to present it to the EAC and get their input.

The three main aspects of the resolution are:

- 100% renewable energy by 2030
- Racial and Economic Justice Provisions
- Federal Jobs Guarantee

Mr. Bray said that the US has never had a consistent energy policy. He suggested that if the Green New Deal adopted, could help to foster a long-term energy policy, that he's in favor of it. He also spoke about Cool Cities and other environmental programs that Lower Makefield Township has adopted. He asked what Dylan wanted from the EAC and the response was that they want the EAC to approve the resolution and recommend to the Board that they pass it. There were some members who felt that the wording of their recommendation to the Board should reflect that, for the EAC, the renewable energy provision is of the greatest importance to them. There were other members who wanted it to be sent without the caveat. It was agreed that Mr. Dresser will write the EAC recommendation with that caveat and send it to the EAC and Mr. Weiss.

Mr. Gallen suggested that it is important to support our representatives in passing environmental legislation. He also mentioned that the "Ready for 100" program that he is involved with has goals similar to those of the Green New Deal.

Tree Planting 2020 Locations – The plan is to plant 80 or 90 trees along the Buck Creek tributary at Patterson Farm. Subject to Township approval, the tentative date for the planting will be April 25th.

Status of Tree Bank Money – Mr. Dresser and Ms. Baus discussed their recommendation on a change to the Tree Bank Ordinance because of the large amount of money owed and unpaid to LMT (around \$100,000) and the lack of any enforcement guidelines in the ordinance. The following additions the ordinance are being considered:

- A penalty would be assessed for late payment, or
- All activity on a project would cease until past due moneys are paid, or
- As suggested by Supervisor Weiss, if the money is not paid on time, it could be taken out of the developer's escrow

Land Use Plans

Mr. Dresser suggested that he will put together a how to review development plans submitted to the Township course sometime in the future for anyone who is interested.

Marrazzo's Townhomes' Preliminary Plan – Mr. Dresser said that he may offer comments on stormwater management for this project.

Wintersteen Preliminary Plan – The plan calls for tearing down the existing house and replacing it with four condos. Mr. Dresser thinks there may be an ordinance violation due to the removal of many large trees from the property. EAC comments on the project will be sent out in a day or two.

Erin Dobry Road Preliminary Plan – The preliminary plan was approved at the December 4 Supervisors meeting. No stormwater plan or final plan application have been received by the Township.

Prickett Run – Mr. Dresser reported that there is nothing new on the proposed mixed-use overlay ordinance. He said he had questions regarding added traffic and stormwater management at the site.

Recycling

The Jan. 4th styrofoam recycling event was very successful, with many appreciative people and 2+ cargo vans full of Styrofoam. It was taken to Princeton Moulding. Mr. Bray will write a letter to the BOS reporting on the success of the project, and thanking the Board and Mark Bortman for their help.

The next styrofoam event will be held on April 18 in conjunction with the next EAC lecture. Mr. Dresser will make the flyer on the styrofoam collection and Ms. Baus will do the flyer on the lecture. Mark Bortman has been informed of the collection and will be ready.

There was no update on partnering with TerraCycle.

Electronics Recycling – Mr. Dresser provided the group with a flyer on a new business in Langhorne that collects electronics for recycling.

Lecture Series – Mr. Bray reported that the April 18 lecture, "What's Bugging Our Trees in Pennsylvania", is being designed for us by Master Gardener, Colleen Michaels. It will begin at 10am and be held in the LMT Municipal Building. There was discussion of ways to advertise it. We will begin advertising at the beginning of February.

Webpage/Newsletter/LMT Facebook – The Spotted Lantern Fly information sheet will be posted.

Environmental Stewardship Award – Mr. Bray suggested that they need to change the wording that set up the Environmental Stewardship Award. Mr. Weiss suggested that the notification of the award should come from the Township rather than the EAC. Mr. Bray said he will change the wording in the resolution and send it to the Township Manager and the BOS for their approval.

Mr. Bray moved that the 2019 Environmental Stewardship Award be presented to the Pennsbury High School Environmental Science Club for four water dock stations, to replace the use of plastic water bottles. Ms. Baus seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The award will be presented at the February 19 BOS meeting.

Election of 2020 Chair and Vice-Chair, Project Assignments – It was agreed that they would ask Ms. Salvati to be Chair. Mr. Gallen agreed to be Vice-Chair. An official vote will take place at the next EAC meeting.

Project Assignments

- Land Use Reviews – Mr. Dresser
- Heritage Tree Ordinance – Mr. Bray
- Tree Bank Ordinance – Mr. Dresser and Ms. Baus
- Environmental Stewardship Award – Mr. Bray
- Long Range Tree Planting – Ms. Salvati, Mrs. Dharmavaram, and Mr. Bray
- Environmental Lecture Series – Mr. Bray and Mrs. Dharmavaram
- Newsletter – Mr. Roden, Ms. Baus
- Publicity – all
- Elcon – Mr. Dresser
- Recycling – EAC associate Ms. Bray and Mr. Dresser
- Light Pollution – Mr. Gallen
- Energy for buildings and sites – Mr. Gallen
- Basins – Ms. Baus

Odds and Ends – Mr. Dresser reported that he is a member of the Bucks County Transitional Energy and Environment Subcommittee that will be making recommendations to the County Commissioners on environmental issues.

With no further business to discuss, the January 8, 2020 meeting of the EAC was adjourned at 9:40pm. The next meeting of the EAC will be held on February 12, at 7:30pm, in the LMT Municipal Building.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Salvati, Chairperson