

Lower Makefield Township
Environmental Advisory Council
February 3, 2022
Meeting Minutes

Present: Linda Salvati, Chair; Suzanne Blundi, BOS Liaison; James Bray; Alan Dresser, Co-Chair; Kevin Gallen; Jonah Ran

Mr. Dresser opened the Zoom meeting at 6:00 p.m.

The first order of business was approval of the January 5, 2022 EAC minutes. Mr. Bray made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, and Ms. Salvati seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Approval of the End of Year 2021 Review – Ms. Salvati moved to approve the 2021 Year End Review as sent out earlier in the week and Mr. Bray seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Tree Ordinances

Update on Township's Proposed Landscaping and Tree Related Ordinances Changes - Ms. Salvati said that the Ordinance will go to the Planning Commission on February 7.

Invasive Species Ordinance - There was a discussion around the definition of the Natural Landscaping Plan referred to in the Ordinance. Mr. Dresser asked if it applies to anything in someone's yard that's wild. Ms. Salvati said it applies to lawn that has been converted to managed natural landscape. There was a discussion about whether there was a need to include more specific verbiage on what is allowed; Mr. Bray feels all restrictions are included in the ordinance already, including height restrictions on grass. Ms. Salvati said she will send all comments from this meeting to Mr. Majewski. She noted that the ordinance will be going through several iterations before it is voted on by the BOS.

Tree Planting 2022 Locations – Mr. Dresser asked if everyone was ready to vote on the draft letter from the EAC to the BOS on tree plantings locations in 2022. Discussion ensued on the price of the 44 Red Maple trees that they expect to plant along Mirror Lake Road. Mr. Bray will find out the 2022 price when he calls Fernbrook Nurseries to discuss the possibility of getting replacement trees for the Compass Arboretum. Sending out the letter to the BOS was approved and the letter dated Feb. 4, 2022 will be sent out tomorrow.

Land Use Plans – Mr. Dresser reported on the one active submittal, **1566 LLC Subdivision**, a 21.7 acre parcel located near the intersection of Yardley-Newtown Road and Creamery Road. One of the three existing houses will remain on the property and six new houses will be built. Mr. Dresser indicated that the property includes a lot of natural resource protected land (woodlands, wetlands, pond, steep slopes). He will do a site visit and the EAC comments will be sent to the Zoning Dept. on February 15th.

Recycling – The LMT/EAC collection event on January 8 was very successful. However, some changes need to be made to accommodate the increase in volume and types of items that we are accepting. Mr. Bortman of ExactSolar has in the past transported the Styrofoam to the recycling facility and the EAC is very thankful for that. But the EAC will be taking over responsibility for getting the styrofoam to either Princeton Moulding or RayBob Packaging. There was discussion of which would make more sense but no decision was made. Since the next event will not be until May, we will be discussing it at future meetings.

With regard to Park and Recs recycling plan, Ms. Tierney will discuss her updated plan at the March EAC meeting. Mr. Dresser mentioned that there is a webinar on February 15 at 1PM on Recycling and Waste Containers in parks to be held by Busch Containers Company.

Plastic Bag Reduction – Mr. Rank presented the survey he had done, which was observing what percentage of shoppers had their own reusable bags in local grocery stores. After discussion of appropriate next steps, it was agreed that it might be very difficult to make much headway as a lone municipality. Therefore, it was decided that Mr. Rank would draft a letter that would be from the BOS to the County Commissioners requesting action to reduce the use of single-use plastic bags. After getting feedback from the EAC, he will forward it to the BOS for their feedback, and then on to the Bucks County Commissioners.

Environmental Stewardship Award – Mr. Bray indicated that the presentation of the Award at the February 2 BOS meeting was very successful. Both Heather Guidice of Kona Composting and the Bowman's Hill representative Pam Newitt were very pleased at being so honored.

Money from Sewer System Sale – Mr. Dresser noted that the PUC approved the sale of the sewer system and one more document has to be approved before it's final. He asked that everyone give thought to items that we could add to the EAC wish list. Thus far, we have asked for preservation of open space, recycling bins for the parks, solar panels for the Township building, and basin naturalization. Mr. Gallen added EV vehicles to replace current gasoline powered vehicles.

With no further business to discuss, Mr. Rank motioned to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Bray seconded the motion and the vote to adjourn the meeting was unanimous. The February 3 meeting of the EAC was adjourned at 7PM. The next meeting of the EAC will be held on Zoom on March 3rd at 6 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alan Dresser, Co-Chairperson