

Environment and Recreation Committee
Meeting Minutes
Monday, April 10, 2023 6:00 p.m.

Present: Committee Members Wendy Margolis (Chairperson), Ben Bell, Dennis Livrone, and Joe Frederick, Building and Zoning Director Karyn Hyland, and Borough Manager John Davis.

The meeting was called to order at 5:01 pm by Ms. Margolis.

The **Minutes** from February 2, 2023 were approved as submitted.

“Dark Skies” Ordinance was addressed by Ms. Margolis. She wanted the title to be changed to “Light Trespass” Ordinance. The ordinance will be discussed in this meeting and then given to the County and Borough Planning Commissions.

The committee jumped ahead to the third agenda topic since there were members of the public present to discuss the Maplewood Baseball Fields.

Ms. Hyland worked on drafting the ordinance. It is an outdoor lighting ordinance; it tightens up the language in the subdivision and land development ordinance that addresses light trespass and glare and sets standards for various uses. The next step, if the committee is satisfied with it, is to pass it along to the solicitor for formatting. This particular model is a combination of Ambler and West Whiteland’s ordinances. It would then be passed through the adoption process. Ambler adopted their ordinance as a zoning ordinance, and it is difficult to enforce. If it is in the subdivision ordinance it will be addressed during the planning process. Ms. Margolis mentioned this is just the first step. This ordinance will give us the ability to enforce light trespass. The existing parking lot lights in the borough would be grandfathered but any upgrade or change would fall under the new ordinance.

The committee held a lengthy conversation regarding zoning ordinance and regulations. Mr. Davis reiterated this ordinance addresses most of the problems with large-scale sources of light, i.e., in parking lots, commercial spaces, or mixed-use areas.

The Environment and Recreation Committee recommended the ordinance be moved along in the process for adoption.

Pop-up Bike/Pedestrian Lane Project Mr. Davis gave an overview of the Pop-Up Bike Lane project that is being offered by the Bucks County TMA. They had received a state grant to create demonstration bike lanes. The TMA would provide engineering resources for design and to study how it works. Originally, we had discussed having it on E. State St beginning at East St and moving up to Chapman Park. Unfortunately, this project isn’t offered on state highways. The TMA offered a couple suggestions, one being that PennDOT install bike lanes next time the road is paved (currently scheduled for 2026). John wants to know if the ERC would agree with a letter being sent to request to the State for consideration. It will not affect on street parking since there is none on E State St. between East St. and Broad St. There are also no sidewalks at this stretch of E. State St. Ms. Margolis thinks this is a great idea and there were no objections from members of the Committee to move this along to Borough Council.

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Maplewood Baseball Fields Mr. Davis informed the committee that the DAA requested roofs to be placed over the dugouts at Field 1 (the field closest to Chubb Drive). Residents are concerned about overdevelopment of the park. This committee compromised and allowed roofs on the dugout at the further field. This ballfield is the last one in the Borough that does not have any coverage over the dugouts. It will be a simple tin roof structure with posts. DAA will share the cost of constructing the roofs. There were no complaints received from residents of Maplewood and John is asking for permission from this committee to move forward with construction.

Mr. Bell questioned the slope of the roof and whether the equipment bin will be exposed to weather or if it will be covered as well. John said the bins will remain in the elements. The Park and Rec Board is in favor of construction. The roof additions also addresses the safety concern of protecting kids from the sun and stray foul balls.

There being no objection to the construction of roofs over the dugouts at Maplewood Baseball Fields, the committee gave it's approval.

Old/New Business Mr. Bell had a question regarding converting the water fountain in Borough Hall to one that could also fill bottles. Mr. Davis said he will investigate it. Mr. Livrone brought up the topic of graffiti and wanted to know which committee or board would address it. Mr. Davis told him that Dave Burger would be made aware of the problem and address it.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 5:43 pm.