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UMBT Board of Supervisors

RE: Request membership to reinstated Environmental Advisory Board

I would like to be considered for membership of the reinstated Environmental Advisory Board (EAC). Per my understanding, this valuable committee was discontinued by a previously seated board of supervisors. Considering some of the challenges facing the township at this time, I cannot think of a better way to engage residents and support the activities of the Board of Supervisors. An EAC could act as a bridge between several of the environmental and outdoors concerns already active in the township – from the Friends of Minsi Lake to the Liberty Water Gap Trail and the Preserve project.

My husband and I live on Morningside Drive that directly abuts the Preserve area, and my family and I are active outdoorspeople. From hiking the Appalachian Trail, paddling on Minsi Lake, to fishing the Shad run and chasing smallmouth bass through the Water Gap, we thrive in and cherish the special, unique and beautiful area we call our home. One of the truly untapped resources we have here in UMBT is our special location and the opportunities for outdoor recreation we possess. One of the challenges we face as a municipality is balancing economic revitalization with environmental preservation. An active EAC can partner with our EDC (Economic Development Commission) to find unique and innovative ways to market and drive a new class of outdoor tourism and recreational participation that can provide a new stream of commerce for a town desperate to find new ways of connecting with both residents and newcomers.

I feel my background as a community organizer (Chairwoman of the Area 9 Democratic Committee – Portland, Upper and Lower Mt Bethel, Roseto, Bangor, and Washington Township), and history of volunteerism for causes ranging from rebuilding the Jersey Shore post-Hurricane Sandy and Advocacy for children in foster care make me a good candidate for a revitalized EAC in our township. My eye for innovative ways to drive participation in outdoor recreation and passion for this special place we call home can help lead our township forward to a new era in environmental growth and development.

Thank you for your consideration,

Courtney Gilmour