LOWER MAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

DECEMBER 14, 2023 MINUTES

PRESENT: Alan Dresser, Chairman; Jim Bray; Kevin Gallen; Soumya Dharmavaram: Linda Salvati; Dan Grenier, Supervisor Liaison

Mr. Dresser called the 6 pm hybrid meeting to order. The first order of business was review and approval of the November 9, 2023 minutes. Mr. Bray moved to approve the minutes, Mr. Dresser seconded the motion and the minutes were approved unanimously.

**New Long-Range Tree Planting Plan** – Mr. Comitta had planned to review the plan during this meeting but the plan was incomplete. He will provide the plan to the EAC a week before the January meeting for review. Monica Teirney and Derek Fuller have not yet reviewed the plan.

Mr. Bray noticed that the 162 trees recently planted at various LMT parks were not planted according to LMT specifications. He had brought it to Mr. Majewska’s attention who said he would look into it. Mr. Bray suggested that a member of the EAC should be there at the next Township planting. EAC Liaison Dan Grenier agreed. Mr. Bray suggested some ways they could improve future planting scenarios. Mr. Grenier asked that Mr. Bray send him some pictures of the recently planted problem trees.

**Recycling**  – The next Styrofoam/corks/pill bottles/batteries event is scheduled for January 20. The Lions Club will supply some helpers. Mrs. Dharmavaram will submit the information to Lower Makefield is a Great Pace to Live Facebook page and Supervisor Grenier asked Mr. Dresser for a copy of the flyer to post on the Township’s Facebook page.

**Plastics Ban -** There was discussion about Newtown Township’s adoption of a plastics bag ban beginning on April 9, 2024. This date will give time for a shake out period and to give businesses time to exhaust any plastic bags they may have. Mr. Bray stated that this is an idea whose time has come. The EAC feels this is a project of tremendous import and we will be closely observing Newtown Township’s experience. Based upon what we learn from Newtown’s experience, it is our intention to promote and work towards a similar ban in LMT.

**Recycle Containers -** Mr. Dresser suggested that the EAC might want to give $1,000 out of its 2023 budget to Park and Rec to buy two recycling containers for the Stoddard and Fred Allen concession stands. It was moved unanimously approved.

**Land Use Plans**

Point/Troillo – The preliminary/final plan was approved at the December 6th BOS meeting. Supervisor Grenier noted that they would still need to get HARB’s approval for the visual appearance of this new development.

Edgewood /Sandy Run Road Minor Subdivision - Mr. Dresser referred to the three comments he had drafted on the proposed subdivision of a 4-acre parcel into two lots with 2 new houses. A concern is the noise factor the homes will experience due to their proximity to the railroad tracks and the Edgewood Road train crossing. He suggested a vegetated buffer. He asked for the okay to mail the comments out and all agreed.

There is nothing new on the proposed Torbert Farm subdivision

Shady Brook Farm has recently stated they have plans to develop portions of their property but there have been no official submittals to the Township.

**Environmental Stewardship Award** – Mr. Bray noted that the nominee for the ESA Award for 2023 was the Penn State Gardeners group responsible for the upkeep of the Native Plant Demo Garden in front of the LMT Township Building. They have done excellent work in bringing this garden back to its past glory over the last approximately 2 years. Mr. Dresser asked for a motion and the motion was passed unanimously. The award will be presented to the group at a BOS meeting in late January or early Feb. in 2024

**EAC Newsletter** – Mr. Roden will be asked to send out the newsletter with articles on the Environmental Stewardship Award and the January 20 recycling event.

**Audubon Bird Town Program Reactivation** – The resolution reactivating LMT as a Bird Town was passed by the BOS at the December 6 meeting. The Bird Town organization will be providing opportunities for the LMT residents, adults and children, to learn more about birds and the incredible positive impact they have on the environment. Birds are a keystone species; when they are healthy, the environment is healthy.

**Open Discussion** -Supervisor Grenier mentioned that stormwater management and stream restoration will be big topics in the coming year.

Mrs. Dharmavaram spoke about a possible lecture on native edible and medicinal plants in the region. It would be given by Jared Rosenbaum who owns a native plant nursery in New Jersey. The lecture will be held at the Community Center with date and time to be decided.

Mr. Gallen reported that Phase 1 of the Patterson Farm project was approved by the Supervisors.

With no further business to discuss, Mr. Dresser called to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor. The next meeting will be on January 11 at 6 pm and will be hybrid.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alan Dresser, Chairman