

Lower Makefield Township  
**Environmental Advisory Council**

July 16, 2020

Meeting Minutes

Present: Linda Salvati, Chairperson; Kevin Gallen, Vice Chairperson; Jim Bray; Soumya Dharmavaram; Alan Dresser. Also in attendance were Monica Tierney, Director of LMT Parks and Recreation, and Ellen Saracini, LMT Resident.

The July 16 meeting of the EAC was held on Zoom due to restrictions brought on by the Covid19 virus. Ms. Salvati called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM EDT.

**Approval of June 1, 2020 Minutes** – The June 1, 2020 minutes were approved unanimously, with two changes suggested by Mr. Dresser. Mr. Dresser will make the two changes and forward the revised copy to Ms. Salvati, who will forward it to the Township staff.

**Tree Planting 2020 Locations** – Ms. Salvati has not heard back from Mr. Ferguson or Mr. Majewski about this project. A discussion ensued about ways to practice social distancing during the planting. Ms. Tierney suggested the first step should be for the EAC to design a written plan that will cover all aspects of planting in this time of Covid19. She indicated that there are plans on the LMT website which have already been approved by the Bucks County Health Department, and can be used as a guide. Ms. Salvati will start work on that and will check with the nursery to make sure the trees are still in stock.

**Arboretum at Memorial Park** – Ms. Tierney explained that she and Ms. Saracini were in attendance to discuss the work being done at the Memorial Park. Working together in 2019, they identified the work that needed to be done in the Garden of Reflection. Ms. Tierney credited Ms. Saracini with the creative ways she came up with to partner with the Bucks County Tech School on one of the biggest problems, which is the erosion of the loose small red-stone walkways. For 8 weeks, students, teachers and supervisors will work on the project of replacing the existing loose stone walkways, allowing them to learn new life skills. The BOS has approved this project and they would like the EAC to get involved. Ms. Saracini had approached a company that makes pervious pavement walkways from used tires, which, in turn, donated the materials for the project. Ms. Tierney's staff will be responsible for taking care of the pervious surface. The EAC members thanked Ms. Saracini for her hard work.

Ms. Dharmavaram asked about the Liriope, a non-native grass, that is in the garden surrounding the Community Center sign near the driveway entrance. A Lower Makefield resident had contacted Ms. Dharmavaram to question why a non-native grass was planted when it would be prohibited by the Township Native Plant Ordinance. Ms. Tierney said Mr. Majewski was aware of the planting and suggested that the EAC contact him to get more information about it. Ms. Dharmavaram will contact him.

Ms. Salvati requested input on her draft letter regarding the two dead trees in the Memorial Garden. Mr. Bray and Mr. Dresser each had suggestions for changes to the letter. A motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously to approve the letter with the changes and send it to Mr. Ferguson. Ms. Salvati will make the changes and forward the letter.

**Community Trail Project** – A ZOOM meeting was held on June 24, 2020. The new walking/bike path from near the Township Building to the Roeloffs ballfields will be paved with pervious asphalt. At that meeting, Mr. Majewski confirmed they do not light any trails. Mr. Gallen will look into the Low Impact Development Ordinance to see what the current restrictions on lighting are.

**Land Use Plans** – There were no new plans to consider but Mr. Dresser provided updates on the following projects.

**Erin Dobry Road**- The Planning Commission approved the Final Plan and will present it to the Board of Supervisors on August 5 for a vote on approving the final plans. The stormwater management system is still of concern.

**Timko Property** - Their request for zoning variances was continued to the July 21 Zoning Board meeting.  
**Mixed Use Overlay Ordinance** – This will be discussed and potentially voted on at the August 17 BOS meeting.

**Recycling** – The styrofoam recycling event is tentatively planned for September 26, from 10:00-noon at the Township Building parking lot. Mr. Dresser will forward a letter outlining a Covid-19 minimization plan for the event to Mr. Ferguson and the BOS chair.

**Lecture Series** – It was agreed that the September 26 lecture should be postponed until Spring of 2021. It was also agreed that the lantern fly brochure should be sent to Ms. Tierney, who will put the brochure on the website.

**Webpage/Newsletter/LMT Facebook** – Ms. Dharmavaram will compose a formal letter requesting a facebook page for the EAC.

Ms. Dharmavaram will forward her article on LMT native gardens of merit to Mr. Roden for the newsletter.

**Environmental Stewardship 2020 Award** – Mr. Bray noted that he had gotten no response to his June 6 letter regarding some suggested changes to the award. He will send a follow up email.

**Year End Review** - The Review writeup is almost complete.

**Odds and Ends** – Mr. Bray has not heard back from his letter regarding updating the cost of a replacement tree. He will write again.

Mr. Gallen provided an update on Ready for 100. He presented a draft copy of the resolution. Mr. Dresser suggested that Mr. Gallen add that other Bucks County municipalities have adopted similar resolutions. Ms. Dharmavaram suggested that the resolution include a road map as to how LMT can move forward.

Ms. Brandt had sent a letter to the EAC asking for money to clean up the garden in front of the LMT Township Building. Mr. Dresser will contact Ms. Brandt to confirm that a viable organization is in place to maintain the garden.

With no more business to discuss, the July 16, 2020 meeting of the EAC was adjourned at 7:15pm. The date of the next EAC meeting is to be determined.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Linda Salvati, Chairperson