

Lower Makefield Township  
Environmental Advisory Council

November 12, 2020

Meeting Minutes

Present: Linda Salvati, Chairperson; Jim Bray; Soumya Dharmavaram; Alan Dresser; Kevin Gallen; Paul Roden; Fred Weiss, BOS Liaison

The November 12, 2020 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 5:00PM.

**Approval of October 14, 2020 Minutes** – Mr. Bray moved to approve the October 14, 2020 minutes as presented, Mr. Roden seconded the motion and the minutes were approved unanimously. Ms. Salvati will forward the approved copy to the EAC and the Township staff.

**Tree Planting 2020 Locations** – Ms. Salvati reported that the tree planting on Patterson Farm that was held on November 7 was a huge success, with about 100 volunteers in attendance and 246 trees and shrubs planted. Feeney's and Shady Brook provided some trees at a discount and Feeney's donated some additional trees at no cost. LMT maintenance staff dug the holes using a rented augur, which greatly facilitated the process.

There is still an unfinished 400 ft section along the creek where the November 7 planting was done. It was decided that this section will be planted in the spring of 2021. Ms. Salvati reported that Mr. Hucklebridge would also like to plant some trees at another location on Patterson Farm, a section of a Bucks Creek tributary along Mirror Lake Road. Ms. Salvati stated that it might make sense to plant both the locations on Patterson Farm on the same day or weekend in the Spring of 2021.

Mr. Dresser suggested, since there is more than \$100,000 in the tree bank, that they consider recommending additional tree planting projects in the Township during 2021. He noted that Ms. Tierney may want to finish work on Caiola Field first. After discussion of other potential projects, Mr. Dresser offered to draft a letter to the Township proposing possible locations for tree plants in 2021. He will submit it to the EAC in the next week or two for review.

**Arboretum at Memorial Park** – Mr. Bray will get in touch with Ms. Tierney early in 2021 to discuss planting the two replacement trees. He reported that Ms. Tierney had not heard back from the arborist and Mr. Bray suggested that they might not need one as there is tree expertise in the EAC. This project will be added to the EAC agenda in January or February. The EAC will discuss appropriate species in a future meeting.

**Land Use Plans** -

**Timko Property** - Mr. Dresser noted that the variances were approved by the Zoning Board, with some changes, such as an increase in the wetlands buffer from 10' to 20' (the ordinance requires 75'). There will be a house with a 40' x 52' footprint. Some of the property will have a conservation easement. It still needs approval from the Supervisors, so is not a done deal. The EAC had suggested in a letter the Township buy it for open space, considering that the property is all natural resource protected land, but was told the Township is concerned about the budget.

Prickett Preserve – Mr. Dresser reported on the discussion that took place at the November 3 Planning Commission meeting. The developer is making some minor modifications to the preliminary/final plans they had submitted in September. The changes involve the central square, the orientation of the pharmacy building, and access driveways. They asked for a waiver from LMT’s tree replacement ordinance (with the current plan they owe the Township 980 replacement trees), which the Planning Commission was not in favor of. The Township Engineer’s comments requested a parking analysis, designated reserved parking, and a viewshed analysis of the 80 ft clock tower. The EAC made these same comments. The developer has said they will address all EAC, CTC and Township committee comments. The Planning Commission did not take any votes or make any recommendations.

Pennsylvania American Water Booster Pump Station - The plan for this project was discussed at the November 3 Planning Commission meeting. The owners/developers agreed to narrow the mid-portion of the new driveway from its proposed 20 ft width. There was some confusion on the number of trees that will be taken down. The Planning Commission recommended approval of the preliminary/final plan.

**Recycling** –

Styrofoam Collection Event – The October 31 styrofoam collection event was very successful. It was also successful for the Stray Cat Organization that simultaneously collected Styrofoam containers for cat homes. Many people indicated that they save their styrofoam until we have an event. It was agreed, after discussion, that the next event should be held on January 9, 2021 from 10-noon so people can dispose of holiday packaging. The Cub Scouts plan to join us for their annual broken holiday lights collection. Ms. Salvati will notify the Stray Cat Organization in case they want to participate as well

Pizza Box recycling – Mrs. Bray has not been able to connect with Kristin Schoenleber, who had introduced the topic of recycling pizza boxes. Ms. Salvati will contact the Bordentown Green Team.

Lecture Series – Mr. Bray has concerns that a Spring lecture might have to be virtual, which, he believes, may not be effective. He will bring it up at a later meeting.

Webpage/Newsletter/Every Bit Counts – Mrs. Dharmavaram reported that she plans to do an article on Every Bit Counts this month. Mr. Roden suggested an article on the Emerald Ash Borer.

Environmental Stewardship Award – Mr. Bray thinks that January or February would be a good time to present the award to Exact Solar. He plans to publicize the award and will send an article to Mr. Roden to be included in the newsletter. Mr. Weiss will make sure the other Supervisors are aware of the award.

Parks and Recreation Certification – Ms. Salvati had distributed pages related to a Parks and Recreation Certification. She asked the members to forward information to her within 2 weeks relating to projects the EAC has done on Sustainability, Natural Resources and Recycling

Odds& Ends – Mr. Roden said there is now a state -wide EAC and they have a new manual for people who are setting up EACs. They are looking for feedback from the local EACs before the end of the year.

Mr. Gallen spoke about Ready for 100. He had updated it from the last meeting and added a list of other municipalities in Bucks County that have signed it. Mr. Dresser asked what the next step is and Mr. Gallen said the next step is to get it on the BOS agenda, if everyone agrees. Mrs. Dharmavaram suggested that it was not ready to be presented to the BOS, that there were several other steps before that. Dr. Weiss believes the next step is to educate the BOS and the residents on the project. He suggested that it be

introduced to the BOS at their December 16 meeting, perhaps followed by a vote on it in January. Mr. Gallen will provide a speaker for the December 16 meeting.

With no further business to discuss, the November 12, 2020 meeting of the EAC was adjourned at 6:15. The date of the next meeting of the EAC is to be determined.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Salvati, Chairperson