

Lower Makefield Township
Environmental Advisory Council

April 13, 2023 Meeting

Present: Alan Dresser, Co-Chair; James Bray; Soumya Dharmavaram; Matthew Farrell, Co-Chair; Kevin Gallen; Paul Roden

Also in attendance was David Long, former LMT resident

Mr. Dresser called the hybrid meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

The first order of business was review and approval of the February 9 and March 9, 2023 Meeting Minutes. Mr. Bray moved to approve the minutes, as edited, Mr. Gallen seconded the motion and the minutes were approved unanimously. Mr. Dresser will forward the approved minutes to the Township.

Future Tree Planting Locations – There was discussion of the letter Mr. Dresser had drafted, which highlighted the six locations recommended by the EAC for tree planting in 2023 and beyond. Mr. Bray suggested that he would like to attend an upcoming BOS meeting to discuss the environmental benefits of planting the trees in the Fall of 2023 rather than waiting until the following spring. Mr. Dresser asked for comments on the letter and said that he would add the suggestion that the planting be done in 2023. With no other suggestions forthcoming, Mr. Bray recommended the letter be forwarded to the BOS as revised, Mr. Roden seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. The letter will be sent the April 14 to the BOS, LMT manager and dept. heads, and the Farmland Preservation and Park & Rec. committee heads.

Bluebird Boxes – Dave Long, a former LMT resident, was in attendance. He answered questions about his request to the EAC to fund his replacement of 25 Bluebird nest boxes. Mr. Long installed the nest boxes in 1996/97 in various LMT parks and farmland preservation land and has been monitoring them since. The EAC agreed that the 25 year old boxes are in need of replacement. Mr. Dresser noted that there is sufficient money in the EAC budget to pay to replace the boxes (approx. \$750). The EAC thanked Mr. Long for his hard work over the years in keeping the nest boxes viable.

Recycling

Recycling Event – Mr. Dresser reported on the upcoming April 22 styrofoam/pill bottle/battery/cork event at the LMT Township Building. It will be held from 10-Noon and Mr. Dresser has bags for the Styrofoam and a truck rented for transport of the Styrofoam. Mr. Gallen noted that he would need three buckets for his batteries. Several EAC members and Township residents have volunteered to help.

Newtown EAC Meeting on Draft Ordinance for Plastic Ban – Mrs. Bray reported on the April 3 Newtown meeting. Leading the meeting were the Newtown EAC, a Newtown Supervisor and

Faran Savitz of Penn Environment, who opened the meeting with a video of the destruction caused by plastic on the environment. Also present were members of the public and several Newtown business people. The EAC distributed copies of their draft ordinance on plastics and a list of questions for businesses. There were a few concerns voiced by businesses. The project has the full support of the Newtown EAC and the Board of Supervisors.

Gary Sanderson mentioned to Mr. Farrell that one of the middle school students would like to reach out to the EAC for help with putting a rain barrel on school property.

Mr. Farrell mentioned that the Parks and Rec Department had sold over 130 rain barrels.

EAC's 2023 Recycling Guide – The Guide is complete, and will be distributed widely, including online and at the upcoming Recycling Event.

Proposed LMT Ordinance Revisions –

Required Open Space Residential for Development – A revised version is being drafted by J. Majewski based on the Planning Comm. Comments.

Chapter 84 Landscape/Invasive Species Ordinance – Ms. Salvati was not present so there is no new information.

Land Use Plans –

1101 Big Oak Road – Waiting for revised landscape report and independent arborist report.

1566 LLC Subdivision – Planning Comm. recommended approval on April 10 with condition that developer meet with the EAC to discuss possible tree planting locations.

Torbert Farm Development – A preliminary plan to build 78 houses on the 108 acre farm has been submitted. Comments on the plan are due May 9; Mr. Dresser asked the members to forward any comments to him before then. He suggested that one EAC comment will be about the developer using the farmland preservation ordinance.

2023 Environmental Lecture Series On June 10th at 10am at the LMT Administration Building there will be a lecture/and video on Monarch Butterflies and their migration. The lecture has been seen by members of the EAC who were very impressed with it and recommended it for an LMT lecture. The lecture will be given by author Mike Weilbacher, who will be selling books afterward. The first 25 attendees to the lecture will receive milkweed plants, one of the butterflies' favorite foods.

Odds and Ends –

On May 21st Bowmans Hill Wildflower Preserve will give a lecture on native plants to a number of scouts. The EAC will fund this lecture (approx. \$150).

Patterson Farm – Mr. Gallen mentioned that he had an Ad Hoc Property Committee meeting later in the evening.

Middletown Township Earth Day 29th – The LMT EAC was invited to participate in this event but no one was available to participate.

With no further business to discuss, Mr. Dresser moved to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor, and the meeting adjourned at 7:15pm. The next EAC hybrid meeting will be held on May 11, 2023 at 6pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alan Dresser, Co-Chair