

Lower Makefield Township
Environmental Advisory Council

February 9, 2023 Meeting

Present: Alan Dresser and Matt Farrell Co-Chairs, Dan Grenier, BOS Liaison, Members, James Bray, Soumya Dharmavaram and Kevin Gallen.

Mr. Dresser called the Environmental Advisory Council February 9 meeting to order at 6pm. The first order of business was review and approval of the January 12, 2023 Meeting Minutes. Mr. Bray moved to approve the minutes, as edited, Mrs. Dharmavaram seconded the motion and the minutes were approved unanimously. Mr. Dresser will forward the approved minutes to the Township.

Future Tree Planting Locations

Prickett Preserve – Mr. Bray and Mr. Dresser reported that the Prickett Preserve developers have decided to pay money into the LMT Tree Bank instead of planting trees on their own. The developer will be paying \$283,000 into the Tree Bank as a result of their removing hundreds of trees during construction and deciding not to plant the replacement trees on-site. This brings the total amount in the LMT Tree Bank to approx. \$350,000.

A discussion on major tree planting in LMT this Fall ensued, including species of trees that would be most appropriate and the best locations. Some locations that were considered to be desirable were at Patterson Farm along Mirror Lake Rd., the eastside of Memorial Park, along Dolington and Woodside Roads, the entrance to the Makefield Highlands golf course and its fronting on Woodside Rd., and the Fred Allan and Caiola Fields. Mr. Dresser and Mr. Bray will tour these various areas in early March with the idea of selecting species and prioritizing locations. Also, a report will be prepared for discussion at the next EAC Mtg. Mr. Grenier and Mrs. Dharmavaram also expressed an interest in being part of the team.

Mr. Farrell asked about fruit trees and Mr. Bray said they don't breed to type, need a great deal of pesticide and the standard fruit trees are all non-native.

It was agreed that it would be most appropriate to bid the tree planting out given the number of trees that may be planted.

Mr. Bray is looking into watering methods other municipalities are using that might work at LMT. Mr. Farrell will send Mr. Bray some info he has read about watering. Mr. Grenier suggested that they talk to the Farmland Preservation people for info on their watering methods.

Recycling –

Mr. Dresser reported on the January 14th Recycling Event. It was a huge success, bringing in more styrofoam, batteries, corks and pill bottles than ever before. The next event will be April 22nd, Earth Day.

Recycling in LMT Schools - Mrs. Dharmavaram believes there may be a meeting this month.

EAC's 2023 Recycling Guide – Mr. Dresser indicated that the guide should be finished in time to hand it out at our April 22nd recycling event. Mr. Farrell added that the Guide should include the information from the LMT Police that they are open to accept Rx drugs 7 days a week.

Mr. Grenier mentioned that our new Township Manager has indicated he would like to get the Township certified through Sustainable PA and may come to the EAC for information on how best to accomplish that.

Land Use Plans –

1101 Big Oak Road – The EAC sent out a comment letter on January 29 which included planting replacement trees/understory trees/large bushes in the remaining existing woodlands and asking the Township to hire an arborist.

1566 LLC Subdivision – Mr. Dresser has drafted a Feb. 10th comment letter on the final development plan, it was approved and will be sent out on Feb. 10th.

2022 Environment Stewardship Award – The award will be presented to the Friends of the Delaware Canal at the LMT February 15 meeting.

2023 Environment Lecture Series – Mr. Bray is trying to check the availability of Mike Weilbacher, a gentleman who recently gave a first class lecture at the Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve Winter Lecture Series. On Monarch Butterflies.

Odds and Ends –

Patterson Farm Ad Hoc Committee – They will be going out to accept bids soon for a consultant to develop a Master Plan.

Food collection plan – Mr. Farrell is moving forward on the food collection project and is looking for volunteers.

With no further business to discuss, Mr. Dresser moved to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor, and the meeting adjourned at 7pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alan Dresser, Co-Chair