

Lower Makefield Township
Environmental Advisory Council
May 11, 2023 Meeting

Present: Alan Dresser, Co-Chair; James Bray; Kevin Gallen; Dan Grenier, BOS Liaison; Paul Roden; Linda Salvati

Also in attendance was Doug Marshall, 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 13 April minutes. Mr. Bray moved to approve the minutes, as amended, Mr. Gallen seconded the motion and the minutes were approved unanimously. Mr. Dresser will forward the minutes to the Township.

Future Tree Planting Locations – Mr. Dresser reported that Supervisor Weiss had an interest in having this topic on the agenda of the June 7 BOS meeting. Mr. Bray will discuss the topic with the Farmland Preservation meeting in the interim. Mr. Dresser, in the meantime, will draft a map showing where the trees could possibly be planted and review it with Mr. Bray.

Recycling

Recycling Event – Mr. Dresser reported that the April 22 Styrofoam/pill bottle/cork/battery event at the Township Building was the best yet, primarily because there were enough volunteers, including a volunteer from the Lions Club, Dan Bernstein. Dan also indicated that the Lions Club would be providing volunteers in the future. The next event will be in the Fall, probably in September or October.

Recycling in LMT schools – Mr. Gallen reported that there was no new information from the Pennsbury School District Sustainability Committee.

EAC's 2023 Recycling Guide – A member of the Yardley-Makefield Democratic Committee had asked Mr. Roden to inquire if a member of the EAC would review the recycling guide at a meeting. Supervisor Grenier suggested that it would be more appropriate to provide a link to the Guide which everyone would be able to access.

Proposed Requirement for Open Space in Residential Development Ordinance Revisions –

The revisions were presented to the Planning Commission on Monday, May 8, and the PC added their suggestions. Supervisor Grenier noted that the Township is looking at different ordinances as ours are fairly outdated. He mentioned that the EAC's background and body of knowledge could be very valuable to the Township in this process, including thinking about different ways to update the Zoning Ordinance and SALDO. Mr. Bray raised the question of

updating Farmland Preservation and Mr. Grenier said there may be a way to include it in the future, that it goes to the definition of open space and how much we can say has to be open space. Mr. Grenier asked for questions or comments anyone in the EAC might have regarding these topics.

Land Use Plans –

1101 Big Oak Road – There was considerable discussion and frustration among the members after reading the arborist report and landscape plans. Among other things, the EAC felt that far too many trees were deemed to be hazardous, sick or dying in the original report. In the follow up report by the independent arborist, only three of those trees were deemed to be worthy of saving. It was felt that someone from the Township should have accompanied the independent arborists on his site visit since the developer was allowed to. Mr. Dresser stated that the criteria for considering trees hazardous, dying, etc. and therefore removed from the site could set a bad precedent for future developments. Mr. Marshall, a neighbor who had joined the meeting to add his comments, said he felt there was a willingness on the part of the arborists to ignore the code. He planned to bring it up at the next BOS meeting.

1566 LLC Subdivision – Planning Comm. recommended that a meeting be held with EAC/Developer/Township to determine tree planting locations at the site.

Torbert Farm Development – The property has not been sold but the Torberts have had a preliminary plan created by an engineering firm. The EAC has drafted comments on the submitted plan, most deal with preserving at least a portion of the property.

Point (Troilo) at Edgewood Village – A preliminary plan was submitted for placing 13 units of housing in 5 buildings on 0.76 acres of land. EAC will draft comments on the project.

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 the Miracle of 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. The first 25 attendees to the lecture will receive milkweed plants, one of the butterflies' favorite foods.

Odds and Ends –

Mr Dresser spoke about the need to update the EAC web page.

Mr. Bray is looking into more efficient ways to water trees.

There was a report that the Audubon Birdtown Program, of which LMT is already a member, will be revitalized. Mr. Bray will check it out.

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 June 8, 2023 at 6pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alan Dresser, Co-Chair