

Lower Makefield Township
Environmental Advisory Council
April 9, 2014
Meeting Minutes

Present: James Bray, Chairman
Alan Dresser, Vice Chairman
Mark Bortman, Member
Matt Conley, Member
Cynthia D'Alessio, Member
Rick Ewing, Member
Paul Roden, Member
Gail Stringer, Member

Also in attendance were John Tracey, LMT resident; John and Dan Reynolds, LMT residents; Matthew Bulger, LMT resident; Laura Brandt, Susan Harrison, and Connie Fairchild, LMT residents and Coordinators of LMT Bird Town.

Dan Reynolds, a Kutztown University student, was in attendance to learn about environmental projects in LMT.

Mr. Bray called the April 9, 2014 EAC meeting to order. Mr. Tracey was in attendance to provide the EAC with three copies of the Van Cleef plan for remediation of the wall. He asked that the EAC review the plan before the April 15 Zoning Hearing Board meeting.

Approval of March 12, 2014 EAC Meeting Minutes – The March 2014 minutes were approved unanimously, as written.

Welcome to New Kids on the Block – Mr. Bray welcomed Mrs. D'Alessio and Mr. Conley, who had recently been appointed to the EAC.

Bird Town Presentation – Mrs. Brandt, Mrs. Harrison and Mrs. Fairchild gave an update on Bird Town activities. They have been very active with presentations and lectures, as well as tabling events.

Tree Tenders – Mr. Bray reported that the EAC would be buying 10-12 trees to replace some of the ones that died in the Oxford Valley complex. Mr. Bray will find out if May 17 is a good day for the Tree Tenders to plant them.

Mrs. D'Alessio has heard from residents in LMT townhouse and condo complexes that they are unhappy with the way the landscaping is done. She thinks a possible future Tree Tender/EAC project might be to offer education to the condo and township boards. This could perhaps be done in partnership with the Bird Town people.

St. Ignatius Development Presentation - The EAC had reviewed the first plan provided by Gilmore Engineers for the St. Ignatius development, and had subsequently provided comments. They got no response from Gilmore Engineers to those comments, and recently received a revised version of the plan. Mr. Dresser will provide comments on the new version.

LMT Nature Trail – An LMT resident has suggested rehabbing the nature trail behind the library as her Girl Scout Silver Award project. This will be a girl scout project. The EAC members reviewed her proposal for the rehab, and were in agreement with all but her plan to use herbicides to remove poison ivy. They noted that environmental problems can result from the use of herbicides. In addition, it was felt that poison ivy can be beneficial and should be moved rather than removed entirely. Mr. Bray will pass the information on to Donna Liney. Mrs. D’Alessio suggested that it might be helpful to add markers to identify the local birds.

Open Space Update – Mr. Bray reported that the Board of Supervisors is receptive to using the \$438,000 County open space money. He and Mr. Dresser had presented their list of recommendations to the BOS at their April 2 Executive Session.

Cool Cities Buy Local Project - Mrs. Stringer has received 23 responses to the letters she sent out, mostly from lawyers and doctors. She has begun making phone calls to get additional information from them. The EAC will discuss next steps at the May meeting.

Trees 101 Seminar – The tree seminar was considered a great success, with 60+ people in attendance.

Newsletter Publicity – MG and BHWP Plant Sales – Mr. Bray suggested, and the rest agreed, that it would be appropriate to advertise the upcoming plant sales of the Master Gardeners and Bowmans Hill Wildflower Preserve, given their support in publicizing our events. Mr. Bray will compose a letter and send it to Mr. Roden.

Conference Attendance Reports and Upcoming Events - The EAC agreed that we would not take a table at the Core Creek Earth Day event on April 26; Mr. Bortman, who will have a table there for his business, will include information on the LMT EAC at his table.

This coming Saturday, April 12, Mr. Bortman will be giving a lecture, along with Tom Wells, on energy saving and alternative energy, sponsored by the Newtown Township EAC.

There is a Bucks County Conservation District Fest on May 24. We have been asked to participate. Mr. Bray will get more information and a decision will be made whether to attend at the May EAC meeting.

May 23rd is the EAC Regional Conference.

The conference in Millersville on native plants will be attended by Mrs. D'Alessio. She will be there on June 5 and 6.

Pervious Pavement Ordinance Update – Mr. Dresser reported on the March 19th presentation to the BOS. The ordinance passed unanimously. A friend of Mr. Benedetto has had experience with residential pervious pavement and will get in touch with the EAC.

Land Use Reviews –

Grace Point – The EAC comments are ready to send. The Church wants 494 parking spaces, and they say that most of it will be pervious. This represents one parking space for every 1.5 seats, while the ordinance indicates the appropriate number is 1 parking space for every 3 seats.

Railroad Crossing Noise Abatement Issue – After discussion, the EAC concluded that the excessive noise at the crossings constitutes a serious form of environmental degradation. They were also concerned with the increased frequency of freight rail shipments as well as the type of dangerous cargos flowing through the Town. Mr. Bray will send a note to the BOS to this effect. Mr. Conley will be the point person for this project.

Modify Tree Ordinance and Magnolia Tree Plaque – There is nothing new on either of these projects.

Drainage Basin Project – Mr. Bray reported that the “no mow” sign in Washington Crossing has been removed, so cannot be used as a model for the EAC.

Open Discussion – Mr. Bray will make sure that all EAC members get copies of the Zoning, BOS and Planning Commission agendas, as well as the BOS Summary.

There was discussion of the leaves being dumped on the Snipes Tract.

With no further business to discuss, the April 9, 2014 meeting of the LMT Environmental Advisory Council was adjourned at 9:35PM. The next meeting of the EAC will be held on May 14, 2014, at 7PM, in the LMT municipal building.

Respectfully Submitted,

James J. Bray, Chairman

