

Lower Makefield Township  
Environmental Advisory Council  
May 14, 2014  
Meeting Minutes

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

Also in attendance were John Tracey, LMT Resident; Zachary Shearon, Van Cleef Engineers; Mary Ellen Saylor, Boucher and James; and Geoff Goll, LMT Resident, to discuss the "Wall" Issue

Mr. Bray called the May 14, 2014 meeting to order.

**Approval of April 9, 2014 EAC Meeting Minutes** – The April 9, 2014 EAC meeting minutes were approved unanimously, as amended.

**The "Wall" Issue** – Mr. Tracey and Mr. Shearon were on hand to present the updated plan for remediating the wall on Mr. Tracey's property. Ms. Saylor and Mr. Goll had questions and comments regarding some aspects of the plan. The next step is for Mr. Shearon to modify the plan, which is planned for presentation to the Board of Supervisors at the second meeting in June. Mr. Bray offered the help of the EAC, if it is needed.

**LMT Mulch Issue** – Mr. Kall had asked the EAC to come up with some suggestions for getting rid of excess mulch from yard debris. He has now reported that Reliable Wood Products is willing to take all of the mulch from yard waste. Mr. Kall is not having trouble getting rid of the leaf mulch, as it is good for the environment and good for gardens. Mr. Bray suggested that there could be a notice added to the tax bill to let people know that mulch is available.

**Girl Scout Nature Trail Project** – The EAC and Tree Tenders toured the nature trail and agreed that water could be a problem, but that the proposed rehab of the area should help to minimize it. There was discussion of the use of a herbicide on the poison ivy, and Mr. Bray recommended having a certified person apply it; he also gave them some information on the benefits of poison ivy. The project is under way.

**Open Space Update** – In the Board of Supervisors Executive Session, Mr. Dresser and Mr. Bray identified the property that they feel would be most appropriate for inclusion in the Open Space program, using the money still remaining from the County. They also reiterated that they think this is still a good time to buy some of the larger properties and identified some that are still available. Mr. Bray noted that the

\$15M bond, approved by 70% of LMT's residents in 2008, would cost each family in the Township only \$50/year. Mrs. D'Alessio said she could provide some statistics, from a recent EAC conference, on how much money a municipality can save through open space.

**LMT Tree Tenders Project at Oxford Valley Softball Complex** – About thirteen people gathered on May 10 to plant seven trees purchased by the EAC to replace dead ones. After discussion, it was determined that more people are needed for future plantings, ideally three people per tree; Mr. Bray feels plantings should not be scheduled unless we have enough people. Mr. Bray said there is a plan in place for watering the trees. Mr. Bray would like to plant four or five more trees in the Fall. Mrs. D'Alessio stressed the importance of documenting the work being done so there is no duplication of effort; she offered to take responsibility for that. It was suggested that it might be worthwhile to ask for some money for the Tree Tenders from the Board of Supervisors, as well as for getting approval on creating an arboretum on the Oxford Valley complex so that the EAC can begin to advertise it. Mr. Benedetto will discuss it with the other Supervisors.

**EAC Booth at LMT Farmers' Market on Opening Day, June 5<sup>th</sup> and EAC Booth at BCCD Canal Fest, May 24<sup>th</sup>.** The EAC has been invited to staff tables at these two events. Several EAC members agreed to participate. The Tree Tenders and Bird Town representatives will be invited to participate.

**Conference and Seminar Attendance Reports** – Mr. Ewing and Mrs. D'Alessio reported on the EAC Conference they attended in May. They found it extremely valuable, both from a networking perspective and in learning about what is being done by other EACs. They were able to provide Mr. Bortman, who is planning a Rain Barrel/Composting lecture in the Fall, with information on the extensive work Reading is doing with rain barrels and rain gardens.

### **Land Use Reviews**

**Grace Point** – The first phase of this project has gone through the approval process to the satisfaction of the EAC. Mr. Dresser is anticipating that there could be problems with Phase 2.

**Manor Care** – They presented to the BOS their preliminary and final plans at the same time. The project incorporated the EAC's recommendations concerning replacement trees and pervious pavement parking.

**Moon Nurseries** – Alan has some comments, noting that Moon Nurseries had addressed the original comments to his satisfaction. He noted that if they do go with an easement, he believes there should be a co-easement. They were asked to remove one of the homes. Mr. Ewing was worried about salt; Mr. Dresser will check on that. He will add the snow comment to the comments on Moon Nursery and let everyone see first.

**St. Ignatius** – The EAC's comments were sent two weeks ago; Mr. Dresser has not gotten a response. Regarding the red oak tree along Sandy Run Road, Mr. Dresser is 99% sure if the oak tree is on property

that is on the boundary between St. Ignatius and the Township, that both parties have to agree before it can be removed.

**Recycling Update** – Mr. Dresser reported on the recycling being done at the Mother’s Day softball tournament in Macclesfield Park. He found that the level of recycling is much improved from previous years. Mr. Benedetto will talk to State Representative Steve Santarsiero about getting permanent recycling bins on the ballfields across from the Township Complex.

**Modify LMT Tree Ordinance** - There was discussion of the Tree Replacement Ordinance and the Street Tree Ordinance. Mr. Dresser and Mrs. D’Alessio will make the changes to their respective ordinances and send to the EAC. The presentation of these ordinances is scheduled for the June 9<sup>th</sup> Planning Commission agenda; if approved by the PC, it will be on the BOS agenda for June 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Tree Plaque** – Work on this is in progress.

**Drainage Basin Project – Road Tour and No Mow Signs** – The Basin tour is scheduled for next week; Mr. Bray will let Mr. Benedetto know the date when it is available.

**Open Discussion** – There is no news on the noise abatement issue. Mr. Bray asked Mr. Conley to keep an eye out for any discussion of this topic planned by other committees, so he, or another EAC member, can attend.

With no further business to discuss, the May 14, 2014 meeting of the Environmental Advisory Council was adjourned at 9:35PM. The next meeting of the EAC will be held on June 11, 2014, in the LMT municipal building, at 7PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

James J. Bray, Chairman