

Lower Makefield Township
Environmental Advisory Council
December 12, 2015
Meeting Minutes

Present: Alan Dresser, Chairman
Jeff Benedetto, Supervisor Liaison
Mark Bortman, Vice Chairman
James Bray, Alternate Member
Matt Conlin, Member
Paul Roden, Member

Also in attendance: Bruce Black, representing the Ewing Township, NJ EC; Tom Wells, representing the Citizens' Climate Lobby; Peter Solor, LMT Resident; Gail Stringer, LMT Resident

Approval of November 11, 2015 EAC Minutes – The November 11, 2015 EAC minutes were approved unanimously, as written.

Citizens Climate Lobby Carbon Fee and Dividend Proposal – Tom Wells introduced the EAC to the Citizens Climate Lobby, an organization working to get approval on a legislative proposal for a “Carbon Fee-and-Dividend”. In an effort to create a market based solution to reducing CO₂, the fee would be placed on the producer of carbon. Studies have shown that this would help to create jobs and would provide health benefits. The money collected would be divided equally and paid to every adult in the United States (est. of \$45 – \$50 per month) and would balance out the increased cost of petroleum. It was shown that, after 10 years, there would be a 32% decrease in CO₂ emissions. Mr. Benedetto raised concerns about the fee; Mr. Wells suggested that he go on the Lobby website, as well as the Risky Business.org website, to get answers to his questions. After discussion, it was decided that the EAC would vote on the proposal at the next meeting and, depending on the result of the vote, present it to the BOS in a future meeting, for their endorsement. Mr. Bray pointed out that the Township has already signed a resolution, through ICLEI (Kyoto Protocol), related to carbon reduction. Mr. Benedetto said he would like to see the ICLEI resolution, thinking it might add weight to the argument for making the community center a green building.

Emerald Ash Borer – Bruce Black, a resident of LMT and member of the Ewing, NJ Township EAC, visited the LMT EAC in an effort to reach out to surrounding townships to talk about the problems being caused by the Emerald Ash Borer beetle. He reported that Ewing is in the 3rd year of the 8 year cycle of infestation, and the trees impacted will not survive. Mr. Black will forward information on this problem to Alan, who will put it on the LMT website.

Open Space Update - The three items under this category - Patterson Farm Easement, Jennings Trace and Madak Tract - will all be addressed early in 2016.

Elcon Hazardous Waste Treatment Facility in Falls Township – The Phase 1 permit, approval of the proposed site, has been obtained. Elcon expects to submit their Phase 2 application in January. The Phase 2 application will have details on the amount and type of hazardous waste the facility will treat, as well as the potential air and water pollutant emissions. A local group (now named “Protect Our Water and Air” POWA) has formed in opposition to the facility. Mr. Dresser offered to serve as liaison between that group and the LMT EAC.

Land Use Reviews –

DeLorenzo Pizza – Mr. Dresser reported that the plan presented by the developer did not address tree protection and replacement issues as well as stormwater control requirements.

Dobry Road Development Preliminary Plan – There is nothing new on this project.

Harris Tract – Mr. Benedetto reported that this project has been revived.

Possible Member Projects – Mr. Dresser presented projects that need to be moved forward and asked that the members consider which projects they would like to take ownership of.

Odds and Ends –

New Members Needed – Mr. Dresser reported that there are two openings for EAC members.

Environmental Stewardship Award – There was discussion of the Award and possible nominees.

Scudder Falls Bridge – Mr. Dresser reported on a meeting on the plans for the Bridge, which was open to the public.

With no further business to discuss, Mr. Dresser adjourned the December 12, 2015 meeting at 9:15pm. The next meeting of the EAC will be held on January 13, 2016, at 7PM, in the LMT municipal building.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alan Dresser, Chairman