

January 31, 2015

To: LMT Board of Supervisors  
From: LMT EAC  
Subject: 2014 Year End Review

The EAC in LMT plays an important role in enhancing the quality of life for all the citizens of our town. Accordingly, it is deemed important to us to prepare a Year End Review for the citizens and leaders of our community so that they may more properly assess the value we add to the quality of life in LMT. We will also discuss briefly the projects we intend to pursue in 2015.

Sound environmental practices equate to a sound economic policy. We feel strongly that our efforts have not only resulted in LMT becoming a standout environmental community but, in so doing, we have saved our citizens substantial tax dollars by becoming better stewards of our land.

This Year End Review will be widely distributed so that the BOS and LMT's citizens become aware of the positive work being done in our Town by a dedicated group of volunteers. Being good stewards of the land also translates into sound economics and, as will be noted, many of the EAC projects have returned significant monies to LMT's citizens.

The report is as follows:

- 1) Drainage Basin Naturalization Program – In LMT, there are approximately 150 open space and drainage basin areas in the municipality. In 2009 the EAC initiated a reduced mowing program that reduced significantly the cost to maintain those areas. Since that time, additional basins and open space areas have been added each year resulting in recurring tax payer savings of over \$60,000 per year.
- 2) Cool Cities Buy Local, Buy Green Campaign – Due to a lack of interest in the relatively small business community in LMT, the EAC has decided to not move forward with this project.
- 3) Open Space Acquisition - In 2014, the LMT EAC was not successful in convincing the Board of Supervisors (BOS) to acquire any of the Open Space properties that were recommended by the EAC. As a proactive council, however, we will identify and recommend additional properties in 2015 for inclusion in LMT's Open Space program.
- 4) Recycling – After identifying commercial entities in LMT that have not been participating in the mandated recycling program, the EAC delivered letters to non-complying businesses encouraging them to start a program. The EAC also continued to work with LMT's Parks and Recreation Department to improve recycling at large sports tournaments that take place in LMT such as YMS's Mothers' Day Girls' Soccer Tournament, the Columbus Day Boys' Soccer Tournament and PAA's Fathers' Day Softball Tournament.

- 5) Audubon Bird Town Program - The EAC initiated Bird Town Program details how homeowners, through judicious native plantings, can enhance the environmental value of their property and draw significantly more birds to observe as well. To abet this process, Bird Town Coordinators, Laura Brandt, Susan Harrison and Connie Fairchild, have given several lectures throughout the area to enlist new members in the program.
- 6) Outreach Presentations – Outreach is an important EAC goal. As an acknowledged environment leader, we feel an obligation to share our successful initiatives with other communities. And, in so doing, we learn from them as well. In 2014, EAC representatives spoke at the following venues:
  - a. March 11, 2014 – Solar Energy Presentation – Pennwood Middle School.
  - b. April 2, 2014 – Open Space presentation to BOS in Executive Session, listing our recommendations for inclusion in the 2014 program.
  - c. April 23, 24, 2014 – Recycling and composting presentation at the Cambridge School in Pennington, New Jersey. Six sessions were held for Grades 1 through 8 over a two day period.
  - d. April 25, 2014 – Recycling and Composting presentation given to first graders at Trevoise Day School in Trevoise, Pa.
  - e. May 8, 2014 – Solar Energy Presentation – Charles Boehm Middle School.
  - f. May 24, 2014 – Set up information booth at Black Rock Road, Canal Entrance as part of the DCNR (Department of Conservation and Natural Resources) and BCCD (Bucks County Conservation District) Migration Day presentation.
  - g. June 5, 2014 – Set up an information booth promoting the LMT “Tree Tenders” and LMT “Bird Town” groups at the opening day of the LMT Farmers Market.
  - h. June 9, 2014 – Solar Energy Presentation – Charles Boehm Middle School.
  - i. December 13, 2014 – Gave lecture on LMT’s Native Plant Ordinance to municipal representatives at Bird Town Summit held in Audubon, Pa.
  - j. Bird Town Lectures \_–
    - i. February 2014 – Martha Washington Garden Club
    - ii. March 2014 – Martha Washington Garden Club
    - iii. September 2014 – Woodside Presbyterian Church Senior Group
    - iv. October 2014 – Green Fingers Garden Club
    - v. December 2014 – Silver Lake Garden Club
- 7) Land Use Reviews – As per our important role as a land use review board, the EAC, after site visits and thorough developer plan reviews, submitted detailed analyses on the following applications:
  - a. Moon Nurseries – January 28, 2014 and May 18, 2014
  - b. Grace Point Baptist Church – April 12, 2014
  - c. Manor Care/Arden Courts – February 15, 2014
  - d. Scammels Corner – Tree evaluation and site visit – Summer 2014
  - e. St. Ignatius – April 28, October 9 and December 11, 2014
  - f. LMT Community Center – July 23, 2014

- 8) Conference Attendance – Finding new concepts and bringing them back to LMT is a primary EAC goal. Accordingly, EAC members are encouraged to attend relevant seminars and lectures and share this knowledge with other EAC members and the community as well. The following list details some of these presentations attended by EAC personnel in 2014:
  - a. February 20, 2014 – Bowmans Hill Wildflower Preserve (BHWP) Land Ethics Symposium
  - b. April 12, 2014 – Energy Savings – Home Solar Power
  - c. May 3, 2014 – 12<sup>th</sup> Annual PA Land Conservation Conference
  - d. May 22, 2014 – Bucks Mont EAC Summit Conference
  - e. June 5-6, 2014 – Native Plants in the Landscape Conference – Millersville, Pa.
  
- 9) Basin Grant Project – LMT, in its role as a Basin Naturalization Leader, has obtained an approximately \$200,000 State-Federal grant to naturalize and rehabilitate four basins in the Northern areas of the Township. The EAC has made site visits to the proposed basins with Bucks County Conservation District Coordinator, Meghan Rogalus, and has made several recommendations that have been adapted in the final plan. The work on these basins was completed in late 2014.
  
- 10) Pervious Pavement Ordinance – This first in State municipality ordinance was adopted by LMT on March 19, 2014. This innovative program allows partial pervious credit to commercial developments if they employ some of the new pervious pavement technologies. Our ordinance has attracted a lot of attention and it has been posted on LMT’s web to facilitate scrutiny by other municipalities and the environmental community.
  
- 11) Tree Bank Ordinance – On November 5, 2014, the BOS adopted a Tree Bank Ordinance written by the EAC. This ordinance stipulates that if developers cannot replace all required trees on a development site, they must contribute a set amount per tree (currently \$315/tree with cost of living escalator) that is set aside by LMT in a separate Tree Bank Account. The moneys in this account may only be used to purchase and plant trees in public areas throughout the Township.
  
- 12) Countess Drive Storm Wall Issue – The EAC was requested to make recommendations to LMT regarding a wall that a resident had built in a floodway on his property, without a permit, to prevent erosion. The EAC studied the problem, met with all parties and made recommendations that were agreed to by the resident. As a result, the wall will be dismantled and a remediation project will restore the stream, as much as possible, to its former state.
  
- 13) Environmental Lecture Series – In a joint venture with the Pa. Horticultural Society and the Penn State Agricultural Extension Agency, the EAC sponsored a seminar entitled “Trees 101”. In a three hour period, the participants learned how to plant, prune, mulch and take care of trees. LMT Maintenance personnel were encouraged to, and did, attend this seminar. A tree was planted as part of the hands-on seminar and the feedback from the enthusiastic participants was very positive.
  
- 14) Environmental Stewardship Award – Every year, the EAC presents a Stewardship Award, along with a \$500 stipend, to the individual, group or business that has been involved in LMT project(s) that have promoted environmental sustainability. The winner in 2014 was the LMT Farmers Market for the positive role they played in promoting the local food network.

- 15) Tree Tender and EAC Tree Planting – In a collaboration with the Lower Makefield Tree Tenders, on May 10, 2014, EAC members helped plant seven, 2” caliper native trees at the Oxford Valley softball complex. For the remainder of the dry season the Tree Tenders performed the unheralded task of maintaining ( make that watering ) these new trees to ensure their future health. Possible future plans are to turn this area into an arboretum showcasing native trees. If you want to help e-mail Dana Sullivan at [LMTSullivan@comcast.net](mailto:LMTSullivan@comcast.net)
- 16) Environmental Assistance - As befitting our role of environmental stewards, the EAC has assisted LMT residents, as per their requests, with advice in the following areas:
  - a. Flood Control – South End Lower Makefield Twp drainage issue

The following is a list of projects that the EAC intends to pursue in 2015:

- 1) Drainage Basin Naturalization – Additional open space areas and basins will continue to be added to this very successful program.
- 2) Recycling – The EAC will continue to monitor the LMT recycling program to ensure we are receiving all appropriate monies from the PA state funding sources. In addition, we will continue to work with our Park and Recreation Department, as well as with area businesses, to ensure that our recycling program continues to expand.
- 3) Environmental Lecture Series – Proposed topics this year include “The Worth of Open Space” and “Invasive Plants in our Landscape” (e.g., Bamboo), presentation by PA Department of Agriculture.
- 4) Open Space Program – With a more positive economic climate in evidence, the EAC will work diligently to promote more open space acquisitions throughout the Township. After the remainder of the allotted County money has been spent, the EAC will focus on other acquisitions that can be purchased with the 15 million dollar bond referendum approved overwhelmingly by LMT citizens in 2008 that, to date, has not been used.
- 5) Expand Joint Ventures – In the past, we have worked together with Bowman’s Hill Wildflower Preserve, the Economic Development Commission, Bird Town and LMT Tree Tenders to hold topical environmental events. Based on the past success of these events, we intend to continue that practice.
- 6) Historic Tree Preservation Ordinance – Currently, LMT is home to many incredibly old and large trees that fall into an “historic” tree category. In 2015, we will explore the possibility of identifying and preserving some of these trees so that future generations of townspeople will enjoy co-existing with these natural wonders.
- 7) LMT Community Center - A site has been chosen for the building of a community center in LMT. We have an EAC introduced Green Building Code in LMT that will ensure both the environmental and economic value of such a structure. The EAC will continue to work with the BOS and the Planning Commission by offering our green building and native plant expertise before and when the building process commences.
- 8) Bamboo Ordinance – The EAC has been requested by the BOS to delve into the issue of invasive “running” bamboo in LMT. The EAC plans to study this issue and make recommendations to the

BOS re the feasibility of implementing an ordinance restricting the use of the “running” type bamboos in our municipality.

The year 2014 was a productive one, but not without frustrations, for the Environmental Advisory Council. It is our steadfast opinion that good environmental projects translate into sound economic savings for the citizens of LMT. As in past years, EAC projects such as Basin Naturalization, increased recycling efforts and our new Tree Bank Ordinance have added significant black ink to our community’s bottom line. It is our pledge to continue such efforts. As always, it is both a privilege and a pleasure to serve the people of Lower Makefield.

Sincerely,

The LMT EAC

Jim Bray, Chairperson - 2015

Alan Dresser, Vice Chairperson

Matthew Conley, Alternate

Mark Bortman, Member

Rick Ewing, Member

Cyndi D’Alessio, Member

Paul Roden, Member

Cc: T. Fedorchak, LMT Manager  
LMT EAC  
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