

March 13, 2019

To: LMT Board of Supervisors

From: LMT EAC

Subject: 2018 Year End Review

The EAC in LMT plays an important role in enhancing the quality of life for all citizens of our township. Accordingly, it is deemed important for 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. This review will also briefly discuss the projects we intend to pursue in 2019.

Sound environmental practices equate to a sound economic policy. We feel strongly that our efforts have not only resulted in LMT becoming a 'better place to live' and 'a standout environmental community', but by doing so, we have also improved home values and the quality of life in the township.

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 Township by a dedicated group of volunteers.

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 2008 the EAC initiated a program of basin naturalization. Naturalized basins provide better stormwater mitigation, better wildlife habitat, and significantly reduced Township maintenance costs due to less frequent mowing. From 2008 to 2015 many basins were incorporated into this program. In recent years, many of these basins have unfortunately been frequently mowed. The EAC has discussed with the Public Works Department about reinstatement of the naturalization program. Though there has had little success, the EAC will continue to encourage the Township and its Public Works Department to naturalize as many basins as possible.
2. Electronics Recycling Collection Event – The EAC organized a multi municipality electronic waste collection event at Charles Boehm Middle School for the third year on May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018. This popular event had more than 900 car drop-offs of televisions, computers, and similar items that cannot be recycled through curbside pickup and which are hazardous in a landfill. In addition, much of this material can be recycled through the recycler that this is coordinated with. In addition, this event has allowed for public outreach regarding township environmental goals and allowed for significant volunteer participation.
3. Styrofoam Recycling Day – On November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018 a Styrofoam collection event was held by the EAC outside the LMT Community Center in conjunction with an EAC environmental lecture.
4. 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 2018:
  - a. Pennsylvania Land Conservation Conference – April 14, Malvern, PA
  - b. Bucks-Mont EAC Summit – September 24, Warminster, PA
5. Environmental Lecture Series and Outreach – Outreach is an important EAC goal. In addition to periodic newsletters, the following EAC environmental lectures were held:
  - a. 'The Humane Gardener' presented by Nancy Lawson, April 21<sup>st</sup>
  - b. 'Practical Tips on How to Reduce your Energy Bill' presentation November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

6. Environmental Stewardship Award – The recipient of the 2018 award was the LMT Friends of the Five Mile Woods Group. This organization of over 100 volunteers has been around almost 40 years. During that time their dedication to the nearly 300 acre Preserve has been unsurpassed in their role as both stewards and educators. Based on this meaningful contribution to our town the EAC was unanimous in their opinion that this organization richly deserved to be recognized by receiving this award. Aside from a handsome plaque the award also includes a \$500 stipend that will be used to fund some of the special programs run by the “Friends” throughout the year.
7. Heritage Tree Ordinance - The EAC has prepared a Heritage Tree Ordinance that protects township trees that are of special character, old age, large size, historical, local, or ecological significance. We have culled the best information we could find throughout the country and been innovative when we had to be to prepare a first class ordinance for LMT. By increasing the public’s awareness and interest in the importance of trees to our wellbeing it is also hoped that this voluntary ordinance will provide a stimulus for our citizens to expand tree coverage in our town as well. The Heritage Tree Ordinance was heard by the LMT Planning Commission on two separate occasions and it was passed unanimously by that group on December 10, 2018. We plan to introduce this ordinance to the BOS early in 2019.
8. Tree Replacement and Woodlands Protection Ordinance Update – The EAC proposed revisions to several of the Tree Related Subdivision and Land Development and Zoning Ordinances. The first would reduce the number of waiver requests from the tree replacement ordinance but leave intact its overall goals. The second would apply the tree protection ordinance to nearby trees on adjoining property when their tree protection area extends on to the site being developed. The last would increase the woodlands protection ratio developers must meet in three of our residential zoning categories. These ordinance revisions were reviewed and approved by the LMT Planning Commission on September 24, 2018. These ordinance revisions will be considered by the BOS in the spring of 2019.
9. Landuse Reviews – As per our role as a land use review board, the EAC, after site visits and thorough plan reviews, submitted detailed analyses on the following applications:
  - a. Octagon Center Phase 2 (Dunkin Donuts/Daycare) – Preliminary Plan Revision
  - b. Octagon Center Phase 2 (Office Condominium) – Preliminary Plan
  - c. Caddis Healthcare - Preliminary and Final Plans
  - d. Erin’s Dobry Road Development – Preliminary Plan Revision
10. Elcon – Members of the EAC have been reviewing the documents associated with the ELCON’s Phase 2 and air permit submissions to the Pennsylvania DEP, as they have become available. Preliminary comments on Elcon’s incomplete submission were provided to the Board of Supervisors in February 2019.
11. Native Plant Ordinance's National Recognition – In late 2018, the EAC received a request from the Director of the Native Plant Society for information on the Township's Native Plant Ordinance. The mission of this highly regarded organization is to promote the conservation of native plants and their habitat through collaboration, research, education and advocacy. The Native Plant Society was extremely impressed with LMT's Ordinance and asked permission to place it and an accompanying power point presentation on their website. The website will be used by the Society in their outreach efforts to get other municipalities to adopt similar ordinances.

The following is a list of projects that the EAC intends to pursue in 2019:

- 1) Environmental Lecture Series

- 2) Implement the Township's approved tree planting plan by utilizing the tree bank.
- 3) Revive and strengthen the Township's basin naturalization program
- 4) Expansion of EAC informational and outreach to LMT residents
- 5) Implementation of past LMT commitments to clean power purchasing.
- 6) Work with local grocery stores to limit their use of plastic bags
- 7) Create a list of opportunities for township residents and local organizations to volunteer to support local environmental improvements.
- 8) Submit for a Treevitalize Grant to the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society.
- 9) Participate jointly with the Yardley EAC regarding analysis and monitoring of the Bucks and Brock Creek Watersheds.
- 10) Sponsor additional electronics waste and styrofoam collection events in the Township.

The year 2018 was a productive one, but not without frustrations, for the Environmental Advisory Council. It is our steadfast opinion that the EAC's projects translate not only to a better environment in the Township, but to economic savings for the citizens of LMT. As always, it is both a privilege and a pleasure to serve the people of Lower Makefield.

Sincerely,

The LMT EAC

Barbara Baus, Co-chairperson

Peter Solor, Co-chairperson

Alan Dresser, Member

Paul Roden, Member

Soumya Dharmavaram, Member

Lisa Kampf, Member

Linda Salvati, Member

Jim Bray, Alternate Member