

February 3, 2022

To: LMT Board of Supervisors

From: LMT EAC

Subject: 2021 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 2022.

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. Land Use Reviews – The EAC is designated a land use review board for the Township. In 2021, the EAC reviewed and provided comments to the Township on the following projects:
 - a. Gomez Minor 2 Lot Subdivision on Oxford Valley Road – EAC February 12, 2021 comment letter,
 - b. Picket Preserve Development – The proposed development at this 37 acre site will be divided between commercial retail (including a Wegmans grocery store) and 200 residential apartment units. EAC comments on the preliminary/final plans for this project were submitted to the Township in letters dated January 21 and March 15, 2021,
 - c. Jennings Property – A proposed subdivision of this property zoned R-RP was before the Zoning Board for needed variances. The EAC sent an October 16, 2021 letter to the BOS supporting their decision to oppose these needed zoning variances.
2. Styrofoam Recycling Day – The EAC hosted very successful recycling events at the Township Building's parking lot on January 9th, May 15th and September 18th. In addition to Styrofoam, wine corks and prescription pill containers were collected at the May 15th and September 18th events. Mark Bortman of Exact Solar generously provided transport of the collected styrofoam to Princeton Moulding near Princeton. The Styrofoam is made into picture frames and furniture molding. The pill bottles collected were mailed to Mathew25Minitries in Cincinnati, <https://m25m.org/pillbottles/>. The organization ships them to developing countries for re-use as medical supplies. The corks are reused in construction or as artwork. Additionally, the EAC coordinated with the Stray Cat Project organization to provide large Styrofoam containers as cat carriers.
3. Trash/Recycle Receptacles – The EAC is working with Parks & Recreation to update the number and types of trash and recycling receptacles. As of the writing of this report, LMT's outdoor parks and recreational facilities currently host approximately 1 recycling receptacle for every 12 receptacles that are unlabeled or designated for trash. Parks & Recreation is initiating a multi-phase Zero Waste Plan that will bring clarity as to the designation (e.g., recycling vs. trash) of the receptacles at LMT's parks and recreational facilities closer to a balance better reflecting the volume of waste or recycling as disposed at these sites.

4. Environmental Lecture Series and Outreach – Since reaching out to LMT residents is an important EAC goal, in addition to our periodic Newsletter the following EAC Environmental lecture was held:

- a. 'Composting at Home' a virtual lecture presented by LMT resident and owner of Kona Composting Heather Guidice on May 6, 2021.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, no in person lectures were given in 2021.

5. Environmental Stewardship Award – The Environmental Stewardship Award Program, an EAC initiative that started in 2008, has not only recognized the merit of our citizens, but has resulted in very favorable publicity for LMT as well. The 2021 award was given to Kona Composting, a local business owned by LMT resident Heather Guidice. Kona Composting collects food waste, that would generally end up in a landfill, composts it, then returns the resulting rich garden soil to its customers. In the less than two years Kona Composting has been in business Heather has amassed approximately 130 customers 45 of which reside in LMT. Since Kona Composting is a for-profit business the award stipend must be given to a select list of local non-profits. Heather has selected Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve as the recipient of the 2021 \$1000 award. Hats off to Heather, she has made our community proud.
6. Native Plant and Tree Ordinance Update – The EAC is working with LMT's Zoning Director to update the township's Native Plant Tree Ordinances. The update will consist of updating tree caliper sizes, adding wording on invasive plants, changing some buffer language and revising the existing list of native plants to incorporate additional species which are native to the region.
7. Long Range Tree Planting Plan/Volunteer Participation – The EAC, along with Parks & Recreation and Public Works, organized three tree plantings in 2021. The Twig Lane Tot Lot and Revere Road Tennis Court were projects that were contracted through a bid process. Ken's Lawn Service was awarded the bids to plant both sites. Plant material was obtained from Fernbrook Nursery. The Twig Lane Tot Lot was planted with 9 shade trees and 13 ornamental trees on October 19, 2021. The Revere Road Tennis Court was planted with 14 shade trees, 9 evergreen trees, and 8 ornamental trees on October 20, 2021.

A tree planting along the northern portion of a tributary to Buck Creek at Patterson Farm occurred on October 23, 2021. The tree/shrub planting utilized the Park & Recreation Department to dig the initial locations for the planting. The planting consisted of 23 shade trees, and 301 shrubs. Plant material was obtained from Fenney's Nursery.

8. Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) – Drainage Basin Naturalization – At the EAC's August meeting the Township Engineer made a presentation on the Township's draft MS4 permit application that will be submitted to the State. The EAC was asked to make comments on the draft permit application. These comments were submitted to the Township in an August 13, 2021 letter.
9. Sustainable PA, Ready For 100 Program – It was decided that along with the proposed resolution, a summary presentation be for Researched Sierra Club's Ready for 100 initiative (commitments by municipalities to commit to 100% renewable electricity by 2035 and heating & transportation to be renewable-powered by 2050) be brought before the BOS, so this process was initiated; efforts related to Cool Cities and the Sustainable PA initiative were kept on hold. Preceding further action on the Ready for 100 initiative, the EAC has adapted a model ordinance from the Bucks County Planning Commission, producing for proposal a Renewable and Emerging Sustainable Energy Ordinance.

10. Newsletter/Every Bit Counts – The EAC Newsletter is published quarterly with special announcements for events such as Styrofoam Recycling and Speakers sent to over 300 LMT and 300 non-LMT residents on our e-mail lists.
11. Invasive Species – The EAC is working with the Jim Majewski to update the township invasive species ordinance.

The following is a list of projects that the EAC intends to pursue in 2022:

- 1) Environmental Lecture Series – The EAC is proposing a lecture series regarding invasive species (“What’s Bugging Our Trees in Pennsylvania”) by Penn State Master Gardener Colleen Michaels. However due to COVID-19 concerns this lecture will be rescheduled in 2022.
- 2) Implement the Township’s approved tree planting plan by utilizing the tree bank.
- 3) Long Range Tree Planting Plan/Volunteer Participation – Research additional sites for tree planting
- 4) Tree Bank Payments by Developers – The EAC will continue its investigation of money owed to the Township’s Tree Bank. The EAC will consider drafting a possible ordinance change that would create interest charges on late payments or to hold development permits from release until fees were paid.
- 5) Revive and strengthen the Township’s Basin Naturalization Program
- 6) Styrofoam Collections – A January 8, 2022 styrofoam collection event is scheduled.
- 7) Expansion of EAC informational and outreach to LMT residents.
- 8) Implementation of past LMT commitments to clean power purchasing.
- 9) Work with local EACs to limit the use of plastic bags.
- 10) Create a list of opportunities for township residents and local organizations to volunteer to support local environmental improvements.
- 11) Participate jointly with the Yardley EAC regarding analysis and monitoring of the Bucks and Brock Creek Watersheds.
- 12) Sponsor additional electronics waste collection events in the Township.
- 13) Submit a resolution and presentation for RF100 initiative to the Boards of Supervisors; investigate opportunities for dark sky programs and other light pollution reduction initiatives; work with LMT on progressing further with the Cool Cities and Sustainable PA initiatives; work with LMT on Electric Vehicle charging stations, transitioning vehicle fleets to Electric Vehicles, and other energy initiatives.
- 14) Studying and developing action plans for deer management in LMT, working in concert with other EACs across Bucks County tackling the economic and ecological harm caused by overpopulation of deer.
- 15) The EAC continues to submit information regarding environmental concerns and events in a newsletter.

The year 2021 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 also, 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

Linda Salvati – Chair

Kevin Gallen – Co-Chair

Jim Bray, Member

Paul Roden, Member

Soumya Dharmavaram, Member

Jonah Rank, Member

Alan Dresser, Alternate Member