

**TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MAKEFIELD  
DISABILITY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
January 11, 2023**

A meeting of the Disability Advisory Board of the Township of Lower Makefield was held via zoom on January 11, 2023. Chairperson Huchler opened the meeting at 6:03 pm.

Those present:

Lisa Huchler, Chairperson

Michele Williams, Vice Chairperson

Lynne Catarro, Secretary

Al Catarro, Member

Cynthia Lang, Member (absent)

John Lewis, Supervisor Liaison

**APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 14, 2022 MINUTES**

Dr. Catarro moved, Ms. Williams seconded, and the November 14, 2022 minutes were approved by all board members in attendance.

**REORGANIZATION**

The reorganization of Board members for 2023 was as follows:

Lisa Huchler, Chairperson Motion made by Ms. Catarro and seconded by Dr. Catarro. Approved unanimously by all board members.

Michele Williams, Vice Chairperson Motion made by Ms. Catarro and seconded by Ms. Huchler Approved unanimously by all board members.

Lynne Catarro, Secretary Motion made by Dr. Catarro and seconded by Ms. Williams. Approved unanimously by all board members.

Liaison, John Lewis assigned at Board of Supervisors (BOS) reorganization meeting.

**REAPPOINTMENT AND OPEN POSITION**

Ms. Lynne Catarro was appointed to another 2-year term by the Board of Supervisors

Ms. Huchler stated that there is an Alternate position open for the Disability Advisory Board (DAB). She will have the township advertise for this open position on the website, social media accounts, etc.

## **WEBSITE**

Mr. Lewis website update: to best of his knowledge, it was a budgeted item \$50,000. Mr. Lewis suggested to move forward and submit content changes. Discussion took place about website accessibility. Mr. Lewis stated website templates are designed for accessibility. Mr. Lewis explained the usage of a persons browser and LMT website for accessibility.

Ms. Catarro and Ms. Huchler will work on the webpage. Goal is to be completed by March 2023.

Email now working [DAB@lmt.org](mailto:DAB@lmt.org).

## **MACCLESFIELD STUDY GROUP**

This is an Ad hoc committee created by the LMT Board of Supervisors that will meet over the next few months to go over a comprehensive plan of Macclesfield Park. The purpose of the master plan is to establish a long-term vision for development of the park.

Ms. Huchler is the liaison for the Disability Advisory Board and attended a meeting in December 2022 and on January 9, 2023. Ms. Huchler reported the Macclesfield Study Group is in the preliminary stages. They have the ADA Transition plan completed by Parks and Rec and the DAB. The committee has been referring to the transition plan for future incorporation. Slide Presentation is available on website, and you can contact Ms. Tierney for any questions or additional information. Focus groups and Key Person interviews will be the next phase. Ms. Huchler will continue to keep all up to date.

## **LMT PROJECT UPDATES**

Several Parks and Rec projects are in the preliminary planning stages as funding is being considered and been approved. These projects were included in the ADA Transition Plan completed last year. The Disability Advisory Board (DAB) will review plans, work with Parks and Rec in any planning, suggestions and monitor as progress is made.

Some recent projects are in process and we will give updates throughout 2023:

Projects waiting for grants

- Five Mile Woods – PECO Green Region Grant

- Memorial Park/Secret Garden – DCNR Grant

- Veterans Park – DCNR Grant

  - This project stemmed from the ADA Transition Plan-the intent is accessibility. The Plan submitted is not the final drawings it was a basic layout/overall scope of the project.

Path from Community Center to Pool is almost completed. The ADA ramps have been installed. There was just one problem on Edgewood Rd and that is being addressed. There are some gaps and may need to add stone before this can be completed in the spring.

Schuyler Tennis Courts appear to be almost complete. The tennis courts are resurfaced and the parking lot is paved and has stripping. There are two handicapped parking spots. One portable restroom is on site and is not handicapped accessible. This may be a temporary one during the construction phase. Ms. Huchler will make sure to ask Mr. Tierney if a handicapped accessible portable restroom can be provided.

LMT Pool is scheduled to have bathroom renovations and looks like the Parks and Rec Department received approval for \$100,000. Ms. Tierney stated to Ms. Huchler that there are not big changes. The renovations are more of just a face lift. Ms. Tierney will send our committee more information when available. Committee agrees there is a need to make sure the restroom is accessible as possible

## **OTHER TOWNSHIP PROJECTS**

### LMT Administration Building Plans

Lower level will start within the next month. The DAB has asked that all door handles be accessible. i.e.: levers rather round knobs since round knob can be difficult for some to use. Ms. Huchler will follow up with Mr. Jim Majewski.

## **BUILDING PLAN REVIEW**

### Prickett Preserve

#### The Barn

The BOS approved the exterior design as recommended by HARB. The conceptual building plans show an ADA ramp into the front entrance of the barn/restaurant at the main level, which has seating both inside the stone and glass and outside on a deck area. Ms. Williams did not see any concerns outstanding at this time. Ms. Williams does not see an elevator to the second floor. Ms. Huchler communicated with Mr. Rogers, former DAB member, and he stated if they are not making more than 20% changes, the present structure may be grandfathered in and handicapped accessible improvements may not be required. We will continue to monitor.

### Apartment buildings

Construction is moving along. Plans were forwarded by Mr. Majewski. Ms. Huchler suggested Ms. Williams call and inquire about accessibility, i.e.: first floor, walk in showers, wider doors, etc. Mr. Lewis said she should contact Bob Dwyer with LandTrust Properties. He will forward contact information for Mr. Dwyer.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Goals for upcoming year:

Attending community events, looking at building projects, assisting parks and recreation department with ongoing transition plan recommendations and projects. We can discuss further at next meeting.

Guest speaker at the February 8, 2023 meeting (30–40-minute presentation)

Claire Leal, Director of BCCIL Services, Bucks County Center For Independent Living in association with Lehigh Valley Center For Independent Living (LVCIL), 164 Lincoln Hwy Fairless Hills, PA 19030 (P) 484-655-2211(F) 610-770-9801 [www.lvcil.org](http://www.lvcil.org)

Mr. Lewis will have this announcement made at the next Board of Supervisors meeting.

## **MEETING SCHEDULE**

Next meeting will be held in February 8, 2023. 6:00 pm via zoom.

## **MEETING ADJOURNMENT**

Dr. Catarro moved and Ms. Williams seconded to adjourn, approved unanimously by all board members in attendance.

Meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lynne Catarro

Secretary, Disability Advisory Board