

Lower Makefield Township  
February 13, 2019  
Environmental Advisory Council  
Meeting Minutes

Present: Barbara Baus; Suzanne Blundi, BOS Liaison; James Bray; Soumya Dharmavaram; Alan Dresser, Co-Chair; Paul Roden; Linda Salvati; Peter Solor, Co-Chair

Also in attendance were Michael Thompson, Yardley Borough EAC, and Jim Majewski, LMT Zoning Director, to discuss the Going Greener Grant.

Mr. Solor called the February 2019 EAC meeting to order at 7pm. The first order of business was approval of the January 9 EAC minutes. Mr. Roden moved to accept the minutes as written and Mr. Bray seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

**Chair/Vice Chair/Co-Chair** – There was discussion of the need for an additional co-chair, because of Mr. Dresser and Mr. Solor’s travel schedules. Ms. Baus agreed to take on that role. There was also discussion about moving the EAC meetings to Thursday nights at 7pm. Mrs. Blundi will investigate the availability of the room.

**Yardley Growing Greener Grant** – In 2018, Yardley Borough EAC applied for a PADEP grant which would allow them to study the Buck Creek watershed and identify causes of impairment. As 70 % of the watershed is in Lower Makefield, the Township sent a letter of support for Yardley Borough to PADEP and has offered to support the Yardley Borough EAC on this project. Mike Thompson reported that he had recently received word that they were being awarded the grant in the amount of \$70,000 with an additional \$25,000 of in-kind matching. He explained that nothing has been contracted yet. They are required to provide a grant budget by March 1.

Mr. Thompson provided some context on the scope of the work and identified the goals, i.e., to develop water quality data, establish which indicators they can use to reduce impairment and then identify products they can use to reduce the impairment. The first step will be to hire a consultant to develop a plan.

Mr. Majewski brought relevant maps and reports, some going back many years, to the meeting, including an MS4 map from 22 years ago. He suggested that comparing this older data to current data could provide valuable information. He noted that every storm sewer in Yardley is on the Borough map while LMT’s map is not complete. After a discussion of enlisting volunteers to do visual assessments of the watershed, it was suggested that this could lead to reduced costs for flood insurance, as well as supporting LMT’s MS4 requirements.

Mr. Majewski will send copies of relevant information to Mr. Thompson and the LMT EAC members. Mr. Thompson thanked him for pulling it all together.

**Elcon** - It was reported that the PADEP has still not received air quality and risk assessment information from Elcon. After discussion, it was agreed that the EAC report, though incomplete, should be sent to Mr. Ferguson with copies to the BOS. Mr. Dresser will take care of that. The DEP is holding a public hearing on Elcon on March 5 at the Sheraton from 6-9pm. Mr. Roden will attend and take notes.

**Land Use Reviews** – In a discussion of the Erin Dobry development, Mr. Dresser indicated that he is compiling a list of comments. He said the main problem is with stormwater, specifically that there is too much impervious surface being proposed and that the existing soils on the site have very little capacity for water infiltration. He also noted that, in spite of previous comments about stormwater management, no changes were made between the previous report and the most recent one.

A discussion ensued about road reconstruction. It was not clear whether Erin or Caddis is reconstructing the road, or if it's shared responsibility. Also, Erin Development has not calculated replacement trees. Mr. Dresser is asking them to address this issue. Ms. Salvati noted that the Army Corps of Engineers agreed with Erin's wetland delineation. Mrs. Dharmavaram said that she will review the comments and add her own.

Mr. Dresser introduced the topic of the soil pile which came from Freemans Farm and is now on Erin Development property. There was no decision on whether to address this situation.

**Tree Ordinances Update-** The Tree Replacement Ordinances are now being advertised. After the 30 day wait period, they will be coming up for a vote by the BOS.

The Heritage Tree Ordinance is under discussion with the BOS.

**Lecture Series** – There was discussion of the upcoming February 16 lecture. It was agreed that future lectures should get more publicity and on a more timely basis. There was talk about whether there should be a lecture in April or May. There was some concern that there is not time to plan another lecture and that we should wait until the Fall. Mr. Bray talked about a recent lecture on Climate Change at Bowmans Wildflower Preserve that was very well done and informative. An effort will be made to bring the speaker to LMT. May 11 and 18 are dates that might be available to have another lecture.

**Streambank Maintenance/Detention Basin/MS4 Program** – A question was raised regarding when the basin(s) will be retrofitted. Mrs. Blundi will follow up with Public Works.

**Newsletter** – There was discussion of the EAC Newsletter and a question about when the next one should go out. It was agreed that the next newsletter would be released before May 4, so that the E-waste recycling event can be included. In addition, Ms. Baus wrote an article on yard maintenance that can be included.

**Electronics Recycling** – The May 4 date has been confirmed for the event. Honor Society students have agreed to volunteer at the event again this year. Yardley Borough and Newtown Borough have both agreed to participate.

**Odds and Ends** – Mrs. Blundi said that she will be meeting with scouts next week to discuss volunteer opportunities that might be available to them.

Mr. Bray raised the subject of the Tree Tenders group that was active in LMT a few years back. He suggested that group could be very helpful with planting and maintaining trees in LMT. He also suggested that planting trees might be an appropriate volunteer opportunity for the scouts.

Mr. Dresser reported on two opportunities available to the EAC to support their mission of educating the public. The first is participation in the open house at the Community Center on March 9. Mr. Solor will take responsibility for that. The second is Earth Day at Core Creek Park on April 27. Mrs. Bray volunteered for that event.

Mr. Bray reported that, with the help of the EAC, Dave Long was able to enlist someone to take over his monitoring of the Blue Bird boxes.

There was discussion of taking a different approach to reducing plastic bags, as suggested by Mrs. Blundi, i.e., educating the residents rather than working through the grocery stores.

With no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Mr. Roden, and seconded by Mr. Bray, to adjourn the February 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of the EAC. The meeting was adjourned at 9:40pm. As there is discussion of moving the EAC meetings from Wednesday to Thursday, the date of the next meeting is still to be determined.

Respectfully Submitted,

Peter Solor, Co-Chair