

Lower Makefield Township  
Environmental Advisory Council

October 14, 2020

Meeting Minutes

Present: Linda Salvati, Chairperson; Jim Bray; Soumya Dharmavaram; Alan Dresser; Paul Roden; Fred Weiss, BOS Liaison

The October 14, 2020 meeting of the EAC was held on Zoom, due to restrictions brought on by the Covid19 virus. Ms. Salvati called the meeting to order at 5:00PM.

**Approval of September 17, 2020 Minutes** – The September 17, 2020 minutes were approved unanimously. Ms. Salvati will forward the approved copy to the Township staff.

**Tree Planting 2020 Locations** – The tree planting on Patterson Farm is set for November 7 and 8, at 9am. The 8th is tentative depending on the weather. To date, 42 people have volunteered to help. The trees will be delivered on Friday, the 6<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers are being asked to bring their own shovels and wheelbarrows. Social distancing will be required. Ms. Salvati said that there is another event going on at the AOY art center that weekend so a parking map will be supplied by Ms. Tierney.

The subject of mulching was raised. There was disagreement about whether the trees should be mulched. Mrs. Dharmavaram asked if the tree bank money could be used to maintain the trees. Mr. Dresser thought that might be possible and noted that there is about \$100,000 in the tree bank. Ms. Salvati will discuss these issues with Ms. Tierney in the next week or two.

**Arboretum at Memorial Park** – After discussion, it was suggested that it might be better to replace the two trees at Memorial Park in the Spring. It will be added to the EAC agenda in January or February. The EAC will discuss appropriate species in a future meeting.

**Land Use Plans** -

**Timko Property** - Mr. Dresser had sent the EAC September 18 letter out to the Supervisors recommending the property be purchased as open space but hasn't heard back. The requested variances will be discussed at the October 20<sup>th</sup> Zoning Board meeting.

**Prickett Preserve** – Mr. Dresser reported that the developer has submitted a Preliminary/Final Plan Application with approximately 100 drawings and over 1,000 pages of documents. Mr. Majewski had asked for the EAC comments before the end of the week, and was told by Mr. Dresser that more time would be needed because of the volume of material involved. Mr. Dresser noted that they will take down 380 existing trees and will owe about 980 replacement trees. The project will cost approximately \$106M. Mr. Dresser will get his comment letter out to the EAC before the end of October. The next Planning Commission meeting, when this may be discussed, is November 17.

Pennsylvania American Water Booster Pump Station - The plan for this project was discussed at the October 12 Planning Commission meeting. The owners/developers will have to go to the Zoning Board for a special exemption. Mr. Dresser submitted an October 9 comment letter about a redesign to allow for fewer trees to be removed.

**Recycling** – Several EAC members volunteered to help out at the October 31 Styrofoam Collection event, which will occur between 10am and Noon.

With regard to recycling pizza boxes, a project suggested by an LMT resident, Ms. Salvati reported that pizza boxes are being recycled by Fernbrook Farm in Bordentown, NJ. Ms. Salvati will get more information from the Bordentown Green Team.

There was a discussion of researching some options for composting pumpkins instead of trashing them.

**Lecture Series** – Mr. Bray had spoken with Master Gardener, Colleen Michaels, who indicated that she would be willing to present the lecture, What's Bugging Our Trees in PA, next March or April.

**Webpage/Newsletter/Every Bit Counts** – Mrs. Dharmavaram reported that the next article on Every Bit Counts will be on Exact Solar, an LMT solar company owned by Mark and Dara Bortman. There was some discussion of future articles being on composting and rain gardens. Mr. Roden agreed to write an article for Every Bit Counts.

**Environmental Stewardship Award** – After discussion, it was agreed that it was important for an Environmental Stewardship Award to be awarded this year. Mr. Bray reported on his discussion with the BOS at the Zoom October 7 meeting about the proposal to give out one award of \$1,000 each year rather than two awards of \$500. Mr. Weiss indicated that the EAC has the authority to make decisions about the ESA, including any changes they feel are appropriate (within reason, of course). A suggestion was made that Exact Solar receive the award because of all the help they have given, by using their vans and employees, in making the styrofoam and electronics collections so successful over the years. Ms. Salvati made a motion that the 2020 Environmental Stewardship Award go to Exact Solar, Mr. Dresser seconded, and it passed unanimously. Mr. Weiss asked Mr. Bray to send him an email and Mr. Bray will notify the Bortmans that Exact Solar will be given the award.

**Collection of Broken Holiday Lights** – There was a discussion of the LMT cub scouts collection of holiday lights which took place in 2019 and was very successful. Ms. Salvati suggested that we find out if they are doing the collection again, thinking that the EAC could include it with another styrofoam collection.

**Year End Review** – Ms. Salvati asked if there were any changes before she submits the final Review. Mr. Dresser had a small change.

With no further business to discuss, the October 14, 2020 meeting of the EAC was adjourned at 6:15. The date of the next meeting of the EAC is to be determined.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Salvati, Chairperson