

Lower Makefield Township  
Environmental Advisory Council  
March 10, 2021  
Meeting Minutes

Present: Linda Salvati, Chairperson; Jim Bray; Soumya Dharmavaram, Alan Dresser

The March 10, 2021 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 February 16, 2021 Minutes** – Mr. Dresser moved to approve the February 16, 2021 minutes as presented, Mr. Bray seconded the motion and the minutes were approved unanimously. Ms. Salvati will forward the approved copy to the EAC and the Township staff.

**Tree Planting 2021 Locations** – Ms. Salvati said that the tree planting to finish up on Patterson Farm and along Mirror Lake Road is still tentatively scheduled for October 23.

**Arboretum at Memorial Park** – Mr. Bray reported on his conversation with Ms. Tierney about the two replacement trees needed for the Arboretum at Memorial Park. He said that Fernwood will deliver, plant and guarantee two trees for a year, for \$800-\$1,000. Once Mr. Bray has more information, he will meet with Ms. Salvati and they can agree on a plan to present to the Supervisors. Possibly there will be a late April planting.

**Possible Additional Tree Plantings** – Mr. Dresser sent Ms. Blundi a copy of the 2016 Township Tree Planting Plan, at her request. He suggested to her that the Township do more tree planting than just the one currently planned. As has been done in the past, the Township's Engineer could be responsible for finding a nursery where trees can be purchased and who will do the planting. This would minimize the work needed from Township employees. Mrs. Dharmavaram suggested that the Township embark on a project that gives residents trees to plant on their property, particularly along stream banks, using the tree replacement money. Mr. Bray thinks there may be something in the tree replacement ordinance that restricts the use of that money to planting trees on Township property. Mrs. Dharmavaram will check on that and provide the EAC with an outline of her plan. Mr. Bray said that Upper Makefield gives a portion of the tree cost to any resident who wants to plant a tree. Mrs. Dharmavaram will get more information on that.

**Land Use Plans** –

**Prickett Preserve** – Mr. Dresser reported that at the most recent presentation by Prickett Preserve, at a BOS meeting on March 3, there was no vote by the Supervisors. Mr. Dresser has a few additional comments and asked if the Members were in favor of him sending out another comment letter. All approved.

Gomez Minor Subdivision – The Planning Commission approved the plan on March 8. They had incorporated several of the EAC's comments in our Feb. 11, 2021 letter. They thought they would be going to the BOS for approval in a month or so.

Woodland Drive and West School Lane Property – There was discussion of a property at Woodland Drive and West School Lane. The potential buyers will be asking for Natural Resource Land protection variances at the Zoning Hearing Board meeting on March 16. Specifically, along with building in a designated floodplain they want to reduce the required wetlands buffer by approx. 40%.

Recycling – Mrs. Dharmavaram raised a question about the possibility of collecting pill boxes along with styrofoam and corks on May 15. She is going to get more information about the feasibility of collecting pill boxes. Mr. Dresser would like to know by mid-April exactly what items we will be collecting at the May 15 event for use on the flyer he will be designing. He also suggested that we could hand out the flyers from Vintage Tech Electronics Recycling to residents at the collection. Mrs. Bray will get more information about collecting ink cartridges. Mr. Dresser suggested doing a zoom meeting with Ms. Tierney in April to discuss recycling in the Township parks.

Webpage/Every Bit Counts – Mrs. Dharmavaram talked to Ms. Tierney about Heather Guidice doing a zoom class on compost for Township residents. Ms. Tierney suggested April and will be back in touch.

Mrs. Dharmavaram had spoken to someone at Penn State Extension about a Class on Macro Invertebrates and/or a riparian buffer walk. Mrs. Dharmavaram will put outlines together on these projects and will run them by Kathleen Connally, Master Gardener Coordinator, to see if Penn State Extension can provide support for this project. Ms. Salvati suggested that Mrs. Dharmavaram could write in Every Bit Counts about the benefits of private and public riparian buffers as an introduction to Township residents.

Environmental Stewardship Award 2020 – Mr. Bray reported that the February 17 presentation of the award was very successful. BOS Chair, Suzanne Blundi's on point presentation highlighted the contributions Dara and Mark Bortman of ExactSolar, the 2020 award winners, have made to LMT over the years. In 2021, Mr. Bray will be looking into additional ways to get candidates for the award.

Other Opportunities for EAC to present information – Mrs. Bray will research opportunities for presenting the do's and don'ts of recycling to LMT residents.

Mr. Bray provided some information on the Earth Day article that will be in Yardley Living Magazine in April.

Open Discussion – Ms. Salvati will ask Ms. Blundi about whether any applications for EAC membership have been received by the Township.

With no further business to discuss, the March 10, 2021 meeting of the EAC was adjourned at 6:00. The date of the next Zoom meeting of the EAC is April 14 at 5pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Salvati, Chairperson