

Lower Makefield Township
Environmental Advisory Council
November 24, 2021
Meeting Minutes

Present: Linda Salvati, Chair; Suzanne Blundi, BOS Liaison; James Bray; Alan Dresser; Kevin Gallen; Jonah Rank; Paul Roden

Also present for a portion of the meeting was Jim Majewski.

Mr. Dresser moved to open the meeting, Mr. Rank seconded the motion and the Zoom meeting was called to order at 6:00pm.

Approval of October EAC Minutes – Mr. Rank moved to approve the October 14, 2021 EAC minutes, Mr. Roden seconded the motion and the October EAC minutes were approved unanimously. Ms. Salvati will forward the minutes to the Township and EAC members on Monday.

Tree Ordinance – Ms. Salvati and Mr. Bray had worked with Mr. Majewski to make significant changes to the LMT Tree Ordinance, including the addition of a significant number of native flowering trees and shrubs. Mr. Majewski forwarded the draft of the revised ordinance to the EAC a day earlier for discussion during the meeting. However, given that there was not enough time for the members to review it thoroughly, the members were asked to review it between now and the next meeting on December 16. It was noted by Ms. Blundi that the item is on the BOS December 1st meeting agenda, but only for discussion.

Mr. Dresser asked why the American Elm Tree was taken off the list. Ms. Salvati responded that elm trees should not be planted given the history of some varieties. Mr. Dresser said he thought there was a new variety called the Princeton Elm. Mr. Bray said there are no long term studies on the Princeton Elm. He said he will look into it.

Mr. Dresser asked Ms. Blundi about the court hearing on November 18 on the LMT's Tree Replacement Ordinance. The Township won an earlier court case but that the developer is appealing. Ms. Blundi does not have up to date info but will follow up on it.

Mr. Majewski joined the meeting and went over the Tree Ordinance changes. He will make the one change and forward the updated copy. When he was asked why there was no info on the wording for invasives, he explained that invasives are covered in another ordinance, which he and Ms. Salvati will be updating.

On the topic of changing the Tree Ordinance to allow up to 20% non-native flowering trees and scrubs, Mr. Bray said he would be drafting a response and getting it out to the members for their comments. He would then make any changes and put it to a vote at our next meeting December 16th. Ms. Blundi noted that she is still in favor of adding some non-natives.

Land Use

Deck Lot – The Zoning Board review of the requested zoning variances has been continued to a special meeting scheduled on November 30th. Several environmental related variances are include. There is strong opposition from the nearby residents.

Jennings Subdivision – The owner’s has formally withdrawn its request for the zoning variances.

Bucks County Smiles Office – They are scheduled to be before the Zoning Hearing Board on December 7 for zoning variances (several are environmental related) for a 8,050 ft² dental office & 70 parking spots.

1273 Lindenhurst Road Subdivision – This is a lot they want to subdivide into three lots. Mr. Dresser didn’t see a lot of natural resource land on the property including woodlands. At this stage only a sketch plan has been submitted.

Ms. Blundi noted that there are many zoning appeals on the December 1 BOS agenda including “The Point” at Edgewood Village.

Mr. Dresser said that his November 14th email to the BOS was to suggest several minor changes to the preliminary budget that would make \$767,000 available for open space preservation. It has been his experience that the BOS will spend money for open space more easily if the money is already set aside. Ms. Blundi stated that no changes will be made in the current budget but it is now part of the discussion on how the future sewer sale money will be spent.

October 23, 2021 Tree Planting – Ms. Salvati reported that the October 23 tree planting at Patterson Farm was very successful with a lot of happy volunteers. She has not had a chance to look at planting options for 2022. She suggested that they could put this on the agenda for the next meeting. Mr. Bray talked about the possible planting along Patterson Farm with Maples with exceptional fall color, perhaps naming it Maple Row. He said that he and Mr. Dresser will be scouting out other areas for tree planting. Ms. Blundi said she would love to work with them on that project. It is anticipated there will be one EAC volunteer tree plantings and two Township managed tree plantings in 2022.

Recycling – The next styrofoam event will be held on January 8 from 10 a.m. - noon. Besides styrofoam, it will include the collection of corks, pill bottles with caps, and household batteries. Mr. Dresser will make the flyer and forward it to the group. Mr. Roden will include the flyer in the next newsletter he sends out in the first or second week of December. He will also include information on the Boy Scouts annual collection of Christmas lights at the gas station at 812 Big Oak Road.

LMT Park & Rec Towards Zero Waste Plan – There was agreement that we should look toward a 5 year plan to institute comprehensive recycling at our parks rather than 15 or 20 years. Mr. Dresser, Mr. Rank and Mrs. Bray will meet in December to draft a five year plan. In the meantime, Mr. Dresser will research prices for containers and possibilities for funding. The plan will be to get back to Ms. Tierney with a draft before the end of the year.

Reducing Single Use Plastics – Mr. Rank gave a power point presentation entitled “Next Steps for Reduction of Single-Use Plastics in LMT PA”. He presented a case study of Ireland which found that charging for single-use plastic bags greatly reduced their use, reduced plastic pollution, and easily paid for the program. Jonah will be sending out a draft survey for review with questions to get the opinions of LMT residents on the idea of charging or eliminating the use of single-use plastic bags.

Odds and Ends – Ms. Salvati asked Mr. Roden to fill out his section of the 2020 review. When she receives it, she will forward to the EAC members for review and dissemination before the end of the year. Mr. Bray suggested they release the 2021 review in January or February.

With no further business to discuss, the Environmental Advisory Council adjourned the meeting at 7pm.
The next meeting of the EAC will be held on December 16 at 6pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Salvati, Chair