

Lower Makefield Township
Environmental Advisory Council

January 12, 2023 Meeting

Present: Linda Salvati, Chair; Alan Dresser, Co-Chair; Dan Grenier, BOS Liaison; James Bray; Soumya Dharmavaram; Matt Farrell; Kevin Gallen; Paul Roden

Mr. Majewski, LMT's Community Development Director, was also in attendance.

Ms. Salvati called the Environmental Advisory Council January meeting to order at 6pm. The first order of business was review and approval of the December 10, 2022 Meeting Minutes. Mr. Bray moved to approve the minutes, Mr. Dresser seconded the motion and the minutes were approved unanimously, as written. Ms. Salvati will forward the approved minutes to the Township.

EAC Elections - There was a discussion of who would be the EAC Chair in the coming year. Mr. Bray nominated Mr. Dresser and Mr. Farrell as co-chairs, Ms. Salvati seconded the motion and all were in agreement.

Future Tree Planting Locations –

Prickett Preserve – Mr. Majewski reported that he has been speaking with DeLuca about the \$283,000 that Prickett's Preserve owes the tree bank. To meet that obligation, they have offered to plant some of the trees themselves if the Township is interested. Mr. Bray said he and Mr. Dresser had looked at the property and had envisioned a long row of approx. 35-40 red or sugar maples with exceptional Fall color about 30' feet apart in Allee form. This could become a real magnet for the residents of LMT not only during the Fall but the rest of the year as well. It was also noted that there is a lot of vegetation there already next to the stream but there would be room in places for some understory trees and shrubs. Alan and Jim suggested they start with 35-40 Maples for a Fall planting. Discussions also ensued about further plantings this year along Woodside Road and infill in the Caiola/Fred Allen Fields. Mr. Majewski asked if this is the plan they want to put forth or do they need more time to consider. This plan will be discussed further in the Feb. 9 EAC Mtg.

Mr. Grenier opened a discussion about the situation with volunteers vs. DeLuca planting the trees. Ms. Salvati asked if DeLuca would do it all this year. Mr. Majewski said there should be someone overseeing it. Mr. Bray suggested we should put in trees at 2.5-3" caliper as those sizes give you the biggest bang for your buck. Ms. Salvati added, however, that there are a lot of issues with big trees as well. Ms. Salvati said she thinks Fall is the ideal time to plant. Mr. Majewski said he will follow up with DeLuca to see what they want to do.

Recycling –

Winter Recycling Event – The styrofoam/corks/batteries/pill bottles event will be held on January 14th. Mr. Dresser has rented a U- Haul truck to transport the collected Styrofoam to RayBob’s Packaging in Tullytown. Everything seems ready to go.

Mr. Farrell attended the last Pennsbury Sustainability meeting. They agreed on some plans to cut down on food and water waste. Mr. Gallen added that they adopted a three year plan.

Mr. Dresser updated the Council on the Lower Makefield Township Recycling Guide that he and Mr. Farrell are working on. This will provide Lower Makefield residents with up-to-date information on local locations where a multitude of items can be recycled.

Land Use –

1101 Big Oak – Mr. Dresser said a revised plan for the 6 acres site has been submitted. The revised plan is the same as the original, removed one existing home and build 6 new houses. An Arborist Report submitted by the developer said 119 trees at the site were dead or hazardous and had to come down. The EAC will provide comments on the revised plan by the end of the month. Ms. Salvati sent a note to Mr. Majewski saying that the EAC has concerns about the report on the trees and wants clarification as to how the 119 trees were determined to be in “unsatisfactory condition”. Mr. Majewski scheduled a site visit with Ms.Salvati, Mr. Bray and Mr. Dresser to walk the property with the developer's engineer on January 18.

1566 LLC Development – The final plan for this 22 acres/6 new house development was recently submitted.

Environmental Stewardship Award – Mr. Bray forwarded a copy of the plaque to the Council members. The award will be presented to the Friends of the Delaware Canal in an upcoming BOS meeting.

Every Bit Counts – Mrs. Dharmavaram indicated that there is nothing new.

Proposed LMT Ordinance Revisions – The proposal to require developers to provide 25% open space in new residential developments was discussed earlier in the week by the Planning Commission. The proposed ordinance will be further revised based on that meeting.

Year End Review – Mr. Dresser asked for approval to send out the 2022 Year End Review. Mr. Bray moved to approve the Review and forward it to all appropriate parties. Mr. Roden seconded the motion and all were in favor. It will be sent to the BOS and Planning Commission.

With no further business to discuss, Ms. Salvati moved to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor, and the meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Salvati, Co-Chair