

**LOWER MAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP  
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL  
FEBRUARY 8, 2024 MINUTES**

PRESENT: Jim Bray, Chairman; Alan Dresser, Co-Chair; Kevin Gallen; Soumya Dharmavaram, Linda Salvati

Also in attendance were Dominique Mitchell and Pam Newitt, LMT Residents and Environmentalists

Mr. Bray called the 6 pm hybrid meeting to order.

The first order of business was review and approval of the January 11, 2024 meeting minutes. The minutes could not be approved as there were not enough members in attendance to make a quorum.

**New Long-Range Tree Planting Plan** – The 2024 Plan is scheduled to be reviewed by LMT’s Parks and Rec Committee next. After their review, the final plan will be reviewed again by the LMT EAC. Hopefully there will be enough time after approval to schedule a 2024 Spring Planting.

**Recycling** – Mr. Dresser reported on the recent recycling event. It was reported that during this highly successful event the EAC collected 81 bags (55-gallon in size) full of Styrofoam, 150 pounds of batteries, 4 + wine boxes of pill bottles, and two wine boxes filled with corks. The next event may possibly be held at the end of April.

**Land Use** – Mr. Dresser reported that there are no new or revised plans submitted this month. The Torbert Farm and 1511 Lydenhurst will need their review times extended.

**Bird Town PA** -Mrs. Bray reported that she is in the process of planning several bird-friendly events for the residents of LMT, including a falconry program. Also, PA Bird Town Leader Heidi Shiver on March 6<sup>th</sup> will present LMT with 2 Bird Town Road signs in recognition of LMT signing the updated Bird Town Resolution.

**EAC Lecture Series** – Mrs. Dharmavaram had no new information on the Edible and Medicinal Plants lecture. Mr. Bray talked briefly about the possibility of lectures on Single Use Plastics, Bird Migrations and Native Plants.

**EAC and Township Newsletters** – There was no one in attendance to discuss the EAC Newsletter. Mr. Bray asked for submittals from the members for the next issue of the Newsletter.

**Environmental Stewardship Award** – At the March 6<sup>th</sup> BOS meeting there will be a ceremony to present the 2023 Environmental Stewardship Award to the Master Gardener Native Plant

Garden Committee of Lower Makefield Township. They are being recognized for their work on the Demo Native Plant Garden in front of the Township Building. The meeting starts at 7:30PM.

**Proposed Member Project Assignments for 2024:**

- a. Bird Town – We will be looking for additional bird and environment lovers to help with the Bird Town PA revitalization.
- b. Heritage Tree Ordinance – Ms. Salvati offered to take this project on.
- c. Single Use Plastics Ban – Ms. Mitchell is volunteering to help with this project and has already done research on the project.
- d. Single Trash Hauler – The EAC already has significant information on this issue from 2009 and will be reviewing it with the BOS.
- e. Assist in the Completion and Implementation of the 2024 Long Range Tree Plan – Mr. Bray, Ms. Salvati and Mr. Dresser will continue to work on this project.
- f. Track Tree Bank Payments/Expenditures – Mr. Dresser will continue to work on this project.
- g. EAC Newsletter – It is assumed that Mr. Roden and Mr. Farrell will continue to work on the newsletter.
- h. Open Space Ballot Referendum – Mr. Dresser and Mr. Bray will review this and hopefully present the idea to the BOS.
- i. Basin Naturalization Program – Mr. Bray will look into this project again. This project will gain new headway as the 2024 Master Tree Plan calls for the naturalization of many basins with shrubs and trees. This is essentially a partial return to the program that was very successful some years ago.
- j. Environmental Lecture Series – Mr. Bray spoke about the possibility of having some lectures on Plastics and Bird Migration.
- k. Recycling Collection Events – Mr. Dresser heads up this project on this very successful project. The plan is to have 2 more events this year.
- l. Tree City USA – Mrs. Dharmavaram is researching info. on Community Tree Plans. She will select the 3 best, incl. Tree City, and will give the EAC an update next EAC meeting.
- m. Environmental Stewardship Award – With the assistance of the EAC, Mr. Bray will continue to do the work in selecting candidates for the annual award. The annual award ceremony recognizes Township individuals, businesses and organizations for their efforts in keeping our beautiful town green and healthy.
- n. Solar Power for LMT - Township Manager Dave Kratzer has recently expressed an interest in the possibility of solar power for Township facilities. According to Mgr. Kratzer there are currently rebates and grants available that might make a project like this a reality. EAC Member Kevin Gallen will be contacting Mgr. Kratzer to determine the feasibility of a solar project at this time.

**EAC Web Update** – Mrs. Dharmavaram had no new information on this project.

With no further business to discuss, Mr. Bray called to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor.  
The next meeting will be on March 14, 2024 at 6PM and will be hybrid.

Respectfully,

James Bray, Chairman