

LOWER MAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

August 8, 2024 MEETING

Present: James Bray, Chair; Alan Dresser, Vice Chair; Soumya Dharmavaram; Kevin Gallen; Dominique Mitchell

Also in attendance were Mark Gallagher and Jamie Feinstein of Princeton Hydro

Mr. Bray called the meeting to order at 6PM. He noted that the meeting is an in-person meeting, with Zoom available for members who could not make it in person.

The first order of business was review and approval of the July 11 minutes. Mr. Bray made a motion to approve the minutes as written and the July minutes were approved unanimously.

Residential Stormwater Management Structures – Mr. Gallagher and Ms. Feinstein, both from Princeton Hydro, a New Jersey business, asked to attend an EAC meeting to discuss residential stormwater management structures. Ms. Feinstein opened the discussion with options for designing small projects. Several different possibilities were presented, such as rain gardens, bioinfiltration, vegetated filter strips, tree planting, and others. She indicated that the most important thing to remember is to do the right practice in the right place.

Mr. Gallagher then spoke about Watershed Stormwater Management Plan and Act 167 – Planning and Management of Stormwater.

Mr. Bray raised the question of why there is such a huge difference in storms today as compared to 35 or 40 years ago. Mr. Gallagher stated that that is true and that the required stormwater control try to take that into account. Mr. Gallen asked if it makes sense to offer incentives to our residents to take steps to reduce the rainwater on their properties. Mr. Gallagher said there are opportunities available and that perhaps LMT and Princeton Hydro could work together to find such opportunities.

Mr. Dresser noted that the Township is in the process of making significant changes to our Stormwater Ordinances.

A resident (April) spoke about her Maplevale neighborhood. In the last few years it has been flooded three times and has witnessed significant property damage.

2024 Long-Range Master Tree Plan- Mr. Bray noted that the Tree Plan has been approved by the Board of Supervisors. Also approved were two Fall Plantings, a large one at the Golf Course and a smaller one at Macclesfield Park.

Recycling- The new date for our ever-popular Styrofoam/Cleaning Pill Bottles/Batteries/Corks event is October 26, 2024. We will plan to have an article in the Bucks County Herald and Yardley Voice announcing the event. Mr. Bray thanked Mrs. Dharmavaram for her daughter's work in bringing Pennsbury High School classes together to add greatly to the number of pill bottles we normally get.

LMT Bird Town – EAC- The LMT EAC Birdtown will be hosting a workshop on Hummingbirds at the Parks and Rec Community Center on September 28 at 10 AM. It will be a one hour long lecture-workshop followed by Q&A. You won't want to miss the chance to learn how to get hummingbirds to eat out of your hand.

LMT's second Falconry Event will occur at 3 pm on October 5th at the Memorial Park venue.

Bird Sculpture Class at AOY - Artists of Yardley is offering a class starting in September that our many birding friends may be very excited about. Students will create life-size sculptures of local birds. Check out the AOY link at <https://www.aoyarts.org/page-18331>.

Tree City USA - Mr. Bray announced that an EAC presentation on Tree City USA is scheduled to be heard by the BOS on 8-21-24. The EAC will be requesting that the BOS approve the preparation of an application to become a member of Tree City USA .

Proposed Single Use Plastics Ban – Mr. Bray will be contacting various BOS members to gauge their interest in the program.

Update on Land Use Plans – The 47-house Wright Farm subdivision recently submitted a revision to their plans. A drafted EAC letter with comments on the revised plans was reviewed and approved.

Model Energy Ordinance- Mr. Bray said that the EAC responses to this Ordinance were due to the Planning Commission by the following Monday.

Open Space Recommendations and Ballot Referendum – Mr. Bray reminded the EAC that this referendum was passed on 7-17-24. Mr. Dresser suggested that we should publicize the news.

EAC Newsletter – Mr. Roden will include in his next newsletter info on September 28 hummingbird workshop at the Community Center, a reminder of the October 5 Falconry Event, the bird sculpture class at AOY, and a reminder about the Oct. 26 recycling event.

Heritage Tree Investigation-

Odds and Ends – EAC Web Page Update – Nothing to report

Open Discussion - A discussion ensued concerning why there are so many extra, unneeded parking spots at the various business throughout the Twp. The EAC will bring this issue to the attention of LMT Mgt.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7PM. The next EAC meeting will be held in person on September 12, 2024.

Respectfully Submitted,

James Bray, Chair