

LOWER MAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

March 13, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Present: James Bray, Chair; Alan Dresser, Vice Chair, on Zoom; John Lewis, Supervisor Liaison; Cheryl Coffee; Soumya Dharmavaram; Kevin Gallen; Dominique Mitchell; Paul Roden

Mr. Bray called the meeting to order at 6PM. The first order of business was review and approval of the February 13, 2025 minutes. Mr. Bray called for a motion to approve the minutes as written. Mr. Roden moved to approve, Mr. Dresser seconded the motion and the February 13, 2025 minutes were approved unanimously.

LMT Stormwater Management Ordinances - Mr. Bray introduced Jonathan Robinson of HRG, who is working to make our Stormwater Management Ordinance comprehensive and modernized. Mr. Robinson reviewed the Articles and summarized by saying that he believes our regulations are Compliant. A EAC Feb. 9 letter to the Township had commented on the Feb. 6 version of the ordinance. Mr. Dresser indicated he had just gotten the final copy but is satisfied with it. He did think that Appendix I should have a detailed description of rain gardens for the resident's benefit. Mr. Gallen asked if they have ways to improve their infrastructure. Mr. Bray thanked Mr. Robinson. The EAC recommended approval of the proposed changes.

2024 Long Range Master Tree Plan - Mr. Bray said they are in the process of bidding for the planting of 50 trees in the Spring and perhaps 150 trees in the Fall. The plan is to have community involvement in the Fall planting. Mr. Gallen asked how we can be sure not to plant on private land. The planting locations are very well delineated and this has not been an issue in the past, however, Mr. Dresser will send the 2024 plan to Mr. Gallen for his review.

Recycling- The next Styrofoam/corks/batteries/pill bottles recycling event is scheduled for May 17, 2025 from 10am to noon at the Township Building. Volunteers are always appreciated.

Single Trash Hauler- The Single Trash Hauler presentation to the BOS will be held on March 19, 2025. Mr. Bray expressed his appreciation to Mr. Dresser for all the work he did on this project.

Bird Town – Mrs. Bray reported that Yardley Borough is now a Bird Town PA and she is hoping to collaborate with them since they are our neighbors. She is also working with Morrisville and the Game Commission to find the right location for housing for Prothonotary Warblers.

Update on Land Use Plans-

Wright Farm - The 3rd revision to the 47-house development plans were submitted to the Township on March 7. These new plans have a vegetative buffer and street trees between the homes and Yardley-Newtown Rd as recommended in the EAC's Feb. 7th comment letter.

Torbert Farm – The EAC submitted a March 9th comment letter on the new plans submitted Feb. 7th. These comments and the Planning Commission's March 10th meeting concerning this development plans were discussed. The submitted plans are considered a sketch plan by the applicant and may still have significant changes.

Proposed Single Use Plastic Ban – The single use plastics ban, which is a topic of interest to the LMT EAC, will be introduced to the Board of Supervisors soon.

EAC Lecture Series –

- 1.** On April 12, 2025 a **Rain Garden** Lecture by Geoff Goll, CEO of Princeton Hydro, will be given at the LMT Admin. Bldg at 10 am.
- 2.** On May 3, 2025 at 10 am you can visit some interesting wild birds from the Aark Wildlife Rehabilitation Organization when they present an exhibition on hawks and birds called **Aark in the Park** at Memorial Park.
- 3.** On May 31, 2025 Noted Author and Educator Mike Weilbacher will present a lecture on **Microplastics**. Mike will discuss the danger these minute particles are causing us and “what can we do about it”.

Updated Publicity List – Mrs. Mitchell reported that she had updated and expanded her publicity list.

Last Arbor Day Plaque Preparation – Mr. Bray reported that the plaque is finished and will be installed shortly.

April 26, 2025 Arbor Day Tree Planting Celebration – Mr. Bray asked the members to consider a group to whom they think the tree should be dedicated. Mrs. Mitchell suggested that our local fire fighters be chosen. There was agreement on this suggestion and a vote was taken. All were in favor and the tree will be dedicated to our fire fighters. The Northern Red Oak Tree was chosen. The small triangle of land on the ball field side of Ox. Val. And Edgewood Rd. was chosen as the tree planting location.

2024 Environmental Stewardship Award Plaque and Award Ceremony – Mr. Bray reported that the plaque will be awarded at the March 19, 2025 BOS meeting.

EAC and Township Newsletters – It was noted that Mr. Roden and Supervisor Lewis had success in working through some of the issues with our present server.

Bringing Solar Power to LMT – Mr. Gallen will be getting together with Township Manager Kratzer to discuss the possibility of bringing solar to Lower Makefield.

Odds and Ends – The Twp. Has asked the EAC to investigate the addition of a new LMT Ordinance that would allow residents to have chickens on their property. EAC member Kevin Gallen will take the lead on this project and report his recommendations to the EAC on the 4-10-25 Mtg.

With no further business to discuss, Mr. Bray called the EAC meeting to an end at 7:00 PM. The next EAC meeting will be held in person on April 10, at 6PM.

Respectfully Submitted, James Bray, Chair