

LOWER MAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

MAY 8, 2025 MEETING

Present: James Bray, Chair; Alan Dresser, Vice-Chair; Cheryl Coffee; Soumya Dharmavaram; Kevin Gallen; Dominique Mitchell; Paul Roden

Mr. Bray called the May 8, 2025 EAC meeting to order at 6:08 pm. The first order of business was review and approval of the April 10th meeting minutes. Because the members had not had an opportunity to review the minutes, the April minutes will be reviewed at the June meeting.

2024 Long-Range Master Tree Plan – Mr. Bray is requesting from Mr. Majewski specific info as to where and what species were planted in the Fall of 2024. This info will be required before we start planning the Fall 2025 plantings.

Mr. Dresser added that there will be a Spring planting of 28 trees around the basketball courts at Memorial Park and 21 trees along Edgewood Rd. across from the Township Building. throughout the Twp. The cost is \$20,750. There was also a discussion about the possibility of cutting down the invasive Bradford Pear trees around the Library and Township Building parking lot.

Recycling – Mr. Dresser reminded the members that the next Styrofoam plus event would be coming up on Saturday May 17. Several of the EAC members volunteered to help.

Single Trash Hauler Analysis - Mr. Dresser suggested that the EAC alone cannot move forward on this project, progress could only be made with strong support from the Supervisors. Mr. Bray noted that our Liaison, Mr. Lewis, was in favor of inviting all three trash haulers to meet with the EAC together. Mr. Bray and Mr. Dresser will meet to discuss it and then see what the Supervisors want to do.

Review Proposed Chicken Ordinance – Mr. Gallen reported that he reviewed several ordinances. After a discussion of the pros and cons, the group voted to approve the proposed draft ordinance that can now be sent onto the Supervisors. Mr. Bray thanked Mr. Gallen for his hard work on this project

Bird Town PA – Mrs. Bray reported that the most recent Bird Town event, “Aark in the Park”, was a great success with approximately 70 people, including about 15 children, in attendance. There were 4 interesting birds that were presented and everyone left with a greater appreciation of the positive role these feathered creatures play in our environment.

Wright’s Farm Development - Mr. Dresser reported that the EAC’s comment letter on the 3rd revision to the preliminary/final plan was submitted to the Township on April 25th. Wright Farm

development was recommended for approval by the Planning Commission at their April 29th meeting. Several of the EAC recommendations concerning vegetive buffers were incorporated.

Open Space – The first discussion on the topic was on the Township’s 5 acre Open Space Tract next to the Regency development. According to Public Works Director Derek Fuller, the tract has required excessive maintenance over the years and a request was made to the EAC to come up with a plan to help minimize these costs. Accordingly, a proposal was prepared by the EAC that recommended the area be converted into a wildflower meadow. By doing so both economic and environmental benefits could be achieved. The EAC voted to approve the proposal submitted by Mr. Bray. A meeting will be held in the future with the Regency HOA, Twp. Officials, and EAC representatives to discuss the proposal.

The second open space item was a residents’ request for Township acquisition of the 3.5 acre next to the above discussed Township open space (136 Old Oxford Valley Road). The 3.5 acre tract has an old existing home on it. Mr. Dresser explained that the owners of this property are requesting approval for a development of 14 townhomes on the site. Some residents of the Regency development do not want the townhomes built next to them and would rather it be open space. The Zoning Board will be hearing some variance requests by the townhome developer in the future.

Proposed Single Use Plastic Ban – After discussing the issue with BOS liaison J. Lewis, Mr. Bray would like to invite Ms. Snyder, Ms. McCarron, and Penn Environment to present on this topic.

EAC Lecture Series – Mr. Bray put out a call for volunteers for the EAC lecture on **Microplastics** being held on May 31 from 10-11 am at the LMT Administration building. The speaker is Mike Weilbacher, Director of Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education, who has earned the Keystone Award from the PA Association of Environmental Educators and the title of “Citizen Hero” from The Philadelphia Inquirer. He is also the author of the very popular and interesting book, “**Wild Philly.**”

April 26, 2025 Arbor Day Tree Planting and Dedication – A Red Oak Tree was planted in honor of the Yardley-Makefield (YM) all volunteer Fire Co. as part of the official Arbor Day Celebration on April 26, 2025. Residents and Twp. Officials were in attendance and several speakers discussed the value of Arbor Day as well as how important the YM Fire Co. is to the safety and welfare of all the LMT residents.

Updated Publicity List – Mr. Bray mentioned what a positive difference our publicity list has made for getting the word out for EAC events. He thanked Mrs. Mitchell for her hard work in keeping it up to date.

EAC and Township Newsletters – Mr. Roden will be sending out a newsletter in the next couple of days.

Odds and Ends - Briefly discussed: Upper Makefield Township's requirement of a permit for residential tree removal, Future EAC Gatherings, and a Recycling Web Page designed by a PHS student.

With no further business to discuss, the May 8, 2025 EAC meeting was adjourned at 7:20PM..
The next meeting will be held in person on June 12, at 6 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

James Bray, Chair