

2022 EAC Environmental Stewardship Award Presentation

2-15-23 BOS Mtg.

Tonight I have the very pleasant duty of awarding the 2022 LMT Environmental Advisory Council Stewardship Award to the Friends of the Delaware Canal. A stipend of \$1000 also accompanies this award.

For the past 15 years the Lower Makefield Twp EAC has given out an Environmental Stewardship Award that recognizes accomplishments that have contributed positively to both the environment and the quality of life in the Lower Makefield community. And, it is our considered opinion that the FODC has admirably fulfilled such a role.

A little background info will show why the FODC is so deserving of this award:

When Betty Orlemann, the founder of FODC, first took over as executive Director the canal, in many areas, was no more than a "smelly, muddy ditch". With the FODC's restoration and clean-up work over the past 40 years the waters are now clean enough to support not only fish, but a myriad of other aquatic creatures as well.

Also, during the various clean-ups invasive plants that have clogged the system have also been removed.

The canal improvements have enhanced the lives of our residents by offering a buffet of activities such as fishing, biking, birding and hiking. And these activities have added significantly to the health and welfare and overall quality of life of all the people along the canal's almost 60 mile length who take advantage of this splendid waterway.

And, the long term, ambitious goal of FODC is to have the complete 58.9 mile length of the canal fully watered and restored to working capacity.

Tonight we salute Executive Director Michael Ginder and all the dedicated members of the FODC who have contributed their time and effort over the years to maintain and upgrade this special, landmark waterway.

Also, one last important note. Special thanks are reserved for Susan Taylor the past Director who served the people of our community in that capacity for over 30 years. Thank you Susan, you have provided inspiration and a model for all of us.

The LMT BOS