

LOWER MAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
JANUARY 15, 2026 MEETING

Present: Jim Bray, Chair; Alan Dresser, Vice-Chair; Cheryl Coffee; Soumya Dharmavaram; Dominique Mitchell; Elizabeth Quigley; Eleanor Turner.

Also in attendance were Jasper Bligh, an Eagle Scout; Anita Chakowsky of Yardley Corners; and Jim Driscoll

Mr. Bray called the meeting to order at 6PM.

The first item on the agenda was approval of December 11, 2025 minutes. Mr. Dresser moved to approve the minutes, and Ms. Dharmavaram seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.

Election of EAC Officials for 2026 – Mr. Bray was unanimously elected to continue as Chair for 2026, and Mr. Dresser was unanimously elected to continue as Vice-Chair for 2026.

DCNR Open Space Grants – Mr. Dresser discussed the possibility of securing DCNR Grants for some selected Open Space properties in LMT. A list of these properties was sent to the Twp. Mgr.

Future EAC Awards- Ms. Quigley has checked on awards available to EAC's for meritorious projects. She will investigate specifically the Conservation District Award and the Keep PA Beautiful Award. And next year check on the PA Governors Award for Environmental Excellence, since the deadline for that award has passed

Tree Tender Discussion – Mr. Bray talked about the Tree Tender group that was active in the past but had not been active for many years. Because of the very large number of trees being planted in LMT, he is looking for the best way to make sure the trees that are planted are properly maintained. Ms. Carla Kimmel-Smith met with him, and they will continue to meet to discuss the idea of forming a new Tree Tender group.

Heritage Tree Ordinance – Ms. Coffee will be preparing the paperwork on the Patterson Magnolia that will be declared Heritage Tree No. 1. She will also be checking on several other trees to determine whether or not they should be included in the program.

Strategic Planning- Ms. Coffee, Ms. Turner and Ms. Dharmavaram will meet and discuss the possibility of creating a Strategic Plan for LMT that would encompass collaboration on issues such as greenhouse gases, stormwater mgt. open space, etc.

2024 Long Range Master Tree Plan- The 2025 plantings are completed. The EAC prepared a Spring 2026 tree planting Plan. The Twp. is currently reviewing the Plan after which a meeting with the EAC will be held to finalize the Plan.

Recycling- Mr. Dresser reported that our January 10 event was one of the most successful ones we have ever had. We collected 120, 55 gal. bags of Styrofoam, tying our record. We also set records for collecting batteries, corks and pill bottles.

Bird Town PA- Lower Makefield's Bird Town PA team will be looking for the best day to choose Bird Town PA Day. It will probably be held in May and will include a bird walk, a children's craft project and a live bird exhibition.

Land Use Reviews – Mr. Dresser led a discussion about a preliminary plan for the Shady Brook property.

Proposed Single Use Plastics Ban Update – We are trying to set up a presentation to the BOS on this topic.

Environmental Stewardship Award – At the BOS Mtg. on February 18th the Refillery will be awarded the 2025 EAC Environmental Stewardship Award. Since the Refillery is a for-profit business they will have to name a selected non-profit to receive the \$1000 Award.

Other programs – Naughty by Nature on Feb. 18, AI (Artificial Intelligence) and the Grid on March 14, Fast Fashion on April 18, and Mr. Bray will soon be doing a Podcast with Bowmans on LMT's Tree Bank Ord.

With no more business to discuss, Mr. Bray called the meeting to an end at 7:30PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

James J. Bray, Chair

