

**TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MAKEFIELD
DISABILITY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
February 11, 2026**

A meeting of the Disability Advisory Board of the Township of Lower Makefield was held at the Township building on February 11, 2026. Chairperson Huchler opened the meeting at 6:03 pm.

Those present:

Lisa Huchler, Chairperson (in person)
Abbey Yeatts, Vice Chairperson (in person)
Kierstyn Zolfo, Member (absent)
Larisa Gambale, Member (in person)
Jody Smith, Alternate (in person)
Matt Ross, Supervisor Liaison (zoom)

APPROVAL OF THE DECEMBER 10, 2025 MINUTES

Ms. Yeatts moved, Ms. Gambale seconded, and the December 10, 2025 meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment this week.

REORGANIZATION

The reorganization of Board members for 2026 was as follows:

Lisa Huchler, Chairperson – Motion made by Ms. Yeatts and seconded by Ms. Gambale.

Approved unanimously by all board members.

Abbey Yeatts, Vice Chairperson - Motion made by Ms. Huchler and seconded by Ms. Gamble.

Approved unanimously by all board members.

Keirstyn Zolfo, Secretary - Motion made by Ms. Huchler and seconded by Ms. Gambale.

Approved unanimously by all board members. Ms. Zolfo could not attend tonight but is aware that she was nominated.

Supervisor Liaison, Matt Ross assigned at Board of Supervisors (BOS) reorganization meeting.

OPEN POSITIONS AND REAPPOINTMENT

Ms. Huchler was reappointed for a two-year term at the last Board of Supervisors meeting.

Ms. Smith has asked to become a full member from an alternate position. Ms. Smith has full voting privileges at this meeting to meet quorum. The Board of Supervisors will have to approve her appointment to full member officially at the next meeting. Mr. Ross said he will place her for appointment on the next BOS agenda.

Ms. Huchler stated that there will be 2 alternate positions open for the Disability Advisory Board (DAB). Anyone interested, please send a letter of interest with a current resume to Township Manager at admin@lmt.org. For further information, please email dab@lmt.org or leave a message at the LMT main number at 267-274-1100. You can also reach out to any LMT Disability Advisory Board Member.

DISABILITY ADVISORY BOARD MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Lower Makefield Township Disability Advisory Board is to educate and advise the Township and broader community about issues affecting people with disabilities; promoting inclusion, safety and equal access for everyone.

EVENTS AND NEW CLUB

LMT Parks and Rec will be holding a few events this year. We will partner with them to provide a sensory friendly room and activities. More to follow as we get closer.

Halloween Custom Party 10/2/26

Family Fun Holiday Party 12/4/26

TUFF CLUB *Together. Unified. Football. Friends.*

Offered in partnership with LMFA (Lower Makefield Football Association)

TUFF Club is an inclusive flag football program designed for local athletes with disabilities. The focus is on having fun, learning football, and building friendships. Coaches work alongside local high school athletes, who serve as buddies—pairing up, getting to know the kids, and supporting them both on and off the field. At its core, TUFF Club is about giving kids the opportunity to connect with peers they may not normally get the chance to hang out with, with football being the common thread that brings everyone together. And the impact goes both ways—the buddies gain just as much from the experience as the participating athletes.

If your child with disabilities is looking to make new friends and play football, be sure to follow them on Facebook to learn more and be the first to know about upcoming camps and events.

Website: <https://wearetuffclub.com/>

WORKING WITH OTHER LMT COMMITTEES

An inquiry from a resident was forwarded from the township manager to the DAB and Human Relations Committee (HRC). The issue was with a business outside of the township and the HRC suggested that it was better for the resident to reach out where the business was located. It was related to persons ability to take a group type of class and how her needs could be addressed.

Per the ADA law, a business like this would have to make reasonable accommodations.

This brought up the question of what does the HRC do and how can we partner with them in certain situations?

Ms. Huchler has a meeting scheduled with Township Manager, Mr. Kratzer and Ms. Frain who is the township liaison to the HRC committee. Would like to get more information on when inquiries come into the township how should they be forwarded based on the two committees mission statements.

PA ABLE Savings Accounts

Ms. Huchler wanted to share a change to the existing PA ABLE accounts. ABLE accounts—special savings accounts for people with disabilities—allow individuals to save money without affecting their eligibility for federal assistance programs. This bill enables employers to make tax-free contributions to these accounts, offering greater flexibility in hiring and retaining employees with disabilities while helping these workers achieve greater financial independence. Currently,

to be eligible to save with PA ABLE, a person's disability must onset prior to their 26th birthday – but the age limit will increase to 46 starting on Jan. 1, 2026. This is thanks to the [ABLE Age Adjustment Act](#), which will expand ABLE eligibility to millions more Americans including one million Veterans.

Pennsylvania Treasurer Stacy Garrity announced that, starting Jan. 1, 2026, Pennsylvanians whose disability began before age 46 will be eligible to open a PA ABLE (Achieving a Better Life Experience) Savings Program account. Currently, eligibility is limited to individuals whose disability began before age 26. PA ABLE offers seven different investment options, including an interest-bearing checking account. Account owners, along with family members and friends, can contribute up to \$18,000 per year to a PA ABLE account. Contributions can be deducted on Pennsylvania state income taxes.

SNOW PLOWING AND HANDICAPPED PARKING

Ms. Yeatts asked about the plowing of handicapped parking spots at the library. During an earlier snow storm, she noticed the snow was pushed into the handicapped spots and covered the cut out. On top of this, a person with a handicapped placard parked in the striped area making the Van accessible parking spot unusable since the ramp could not be deployed.

Ms. Huchler was at the township building and asked the director of Public Works about the parking at the library. Mr. Fuller informed her the library is owned by the county and they have their own contractors clearing the snow.

Ms. Huchler and Mr. Fuller discussed how the township clears snow and he will make an effort to look at this during the next snow plowing event. There are very few spots in the township that have handicapped parking during the winter months. Most of the township parking areas are in community parks and recreational areas that are not in use during the winter months.

Per the ADA, there is not a specific time frame in which municipalities must act, but snow removal must be done as quickly as reasonably possible. And snow must not be plowed into/on top of accessible features or components of an accessible route.

Ms. Huchler sent an email to Mr. Fuller with the ADA guidelines and will reach out to the county about the library parking issues.

Ms. Yeatts wanted to remind everyone about Handicapped parking etiquette. Please do not park on the striped area to allow vans to deploy their ramp safely.

LMT PARKS AND REC PROJECT UPDATES

Ms. Huchler gave an update on the change in leadership in the Parks and Rec department. The Director of Parks and Rec position was eliminated and Monica Tierney is no longer employed by the township.

Ms. Huchler took time to thank Ms. Tierney for all of her hard work and accomplishments. She has been the biggest advocate of the DAB and often went above and beyond to help with our requests, projects and concerns. We felt like we had a partner and will miss her tremendously. We worked for more than a year in assisting with the ADA Transition plan. She was the first Parks and Rec department in PA to receive accreditation. Ms. Gambale also said she enjoyed working with her and appreciated the time she spent with her regarding future projects.

We will continue to work with the Parks and Rec department and many of the smaller events are organized by Mr. Vandergrift and we look forward to our continued partnership.

Memorial Park bathrooms will be renovated this fall as part of the grant received. Township Manager and Mr. Majewski said we will receive those plans and we can review. Ms. Yeatts has asked that the township look into putting large child/adult or adolescent changing tables. Since the inclusive playground is adjacent to these bathrooms many children of all sizes play there. This would help parents of these children to attend to their needs while visiting the playground.

Extension of Taylorsville Road sidewalk

Mr. Ross said they were continuing the sidewalk north on Taylorsville Rd connecting to the Yardley sidewalk. Construction will begin after the Yardley section is completed by summer.

Other future projects we will continue to follow:

Pool Bathrooms

Community Center handicapped door and parking

Bike paths

Kids Kingdom

Veterans Park

Macclesfield Field

GRANT UPDATES

Accessible growing Microgrant

<https://disabilities.temple.edu/programs-services/health-equity/food-justice/pennsylvania-accessible-growing-microgrant>. This grant is to help make gardens and growing spaces in Pennsylvania more accessible for everyone. Funds can be used for tools, renovations, and other accessibility improvements.

Ms. Huchler asked Ms. Gambale to reach out to her contact at the LMT Senior group president. He is also a boy scout leader and may have someone interested in a project. Ms. Gambale asked if we had money set aside for these projects but Ms. Yeatts says they scouts usually receive donations and or fundraise as part of their badge program.

Shade Grant

Ms. Yeatts was working with Ms. Tierney on providing sunscreen at the pool before applying for this grant. Ms. Yeatts will reach out to the pool manager. Ms. Yeatts will also work with Mr. Vandegrift on the social media marketing portion of the sunscreen campaign.

BUILDING PLAN REVIEW

Prickett Plan Updates

Looks like the Historic home is having work done. Appears that they put in a handicapped ramp. Mr. Ross did not think they have a tenant for that yet.

No other updates.

The Point

Ms. Huchler spoke to Mr. Majewski, Director of Community development. He said they had questions concerning the accessibility of some of the first-floor units. He was not sure of the exact requirement of how many have to be accessible and had to get that exact number. They also make sure that some of the rental units are plumbed out for accessible construction if needed. While they are doing the initial construction, the builders do all of the behind the wall work so they can add handicapped bars, 36-inch doorways need to be 36 inches, etc., if needed.

Planning Study-The township has engaged Michael Baker International to conduct a planning study for the SR 332/Stony Hill Road/Edgewood Village area. This initiative specifically advances many of the recommendations for action outlined in the Township's Master Plan Update, which was adopted in August 2019; specifically, those relating to Housing, Land Use Planning, Historic Preservation, and Transportation. Ms. Huchler is on the Ad-Hoc Steering Committee and will keep the board updated. There will be future open meetings where the entire community is welcome to express ideas, concerns or suggestions.

OLD BUSINESS

ADA Transition plan was approved by our board and sent over to Parks and Rec to bring to the BOS. Not sure if this will be delayed since there is a change at the Parks and Rec department. Mr. Ross asked us to send him the ADA Transition Plan information if we needed to place it in front of the Supervisors.

NEW BUSINESS

Newsletter

Noticed that the recreational Opportunities page in the Spring Newsletter 2026 edition was not the most updated. The Winter Newsletter had the updated information for accessibility for the 5-Mile woods. The Spring edition reverted back to a previous version. Will alert the township to correct.

Ms. Yeatts remembered Ms. Tierney talking about some kind of accessible golf program. We do not see that in the newsletter. Ms. Huchler will reach out to Parks and Rec to see if that program exists.

Standards for elevators in apartment buildings.

Ms. Huchler wanted to let everyone know that another bill concerning elevators in apartment buildings was reintroduced. A previous version did not make it to the floor for a vote. The bill number HB1761-2023/2024 had expired. A new bill number HB 358 was reintroduced 2025/2026. See link for details.

<https://www.palegis.us/legislation/bills/text/PDF/2025/0/HB0358/PN0312>

The DAB had endorsed the previous bill but Ms. Huchler explained that it probably will never be passed because the cost of putting an elevator in any apartment building with 4 units would be cost prohibitive. This would deter builders from offering more apartment options and less affordability. We do not believe it will pass due to the opposition from construction companies and builders.

2026 GOALS

The DAB reviewed the goals for 2026.

Continue to review design plans for accessibility

Grants -continue to pursue the Accessible Growing grant and Shade grant

Community Outreach/Events- look for different ways to create awareness of the DAB.

Attend any LMT Community Events

Work with and support the Human Relations Committee

Support Parks and Rec scheduled events

Attend and assist with sensory friendly events for Halloween and Holiday party for children of all abilities.

Center for Independent Living (CIL) – partner with them on any events

Local Representatives- see if Rep Perry Warren is doing any events that we could attend.

Look into attending any local Disability or health events.

Start planning for 2027 Roll and Stroll Event. Look for vendors such as Autism cares, Special Olympics, YMS Special Stars, Cheer abilities, Veterans groups, health providers, hospitals and clinics, library, Tuff Club, Scouts, and any other group interested.

Ms. Gambale asked if the schools held events that we could get involved with. We discussed that the schools hold dances with children of all abilities, have buddy systems and provide many resources to those students already.

MEETING SCHEDULE

Next meeting April 8, 2026 at 6:00 pm at the Township Building meeting room.

Will meet every other month.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Yeatts moved, Ms. Gambale seconded to adjourn, approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 6:56 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lisa Huchler
Chair, Disability Advisory Board