

**TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MAKEFIELD**  
**DISABILITY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**April 8, 2026**

A meeting of the Disability Advisory Board of the Township of Lower Makefield was held at the Township building on April 8, 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 FEBRUARY 11, 2026 MINUTES**

Ms. Yeatts moved, Ms. Gambale seconded, and the February 11, 2026 meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment this week.

**OPEN POSITIONS AND REAPPOINTMENT**

Ms. Smith had asked to become a full member from an alternate position. Ms. Smith was reappointed for a two-year term at the last Board of Supervisors meeting.

Ms. Huchler stated that there are 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](mailto:admin@lmt.org). For further information, please email [dab@lmt.org](mailto: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.

**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 at the Community center and assist in any other way with events that support accessibility in the township such as the 5 K Anyway Color Fun Run. More to follow as we get closer.

March 2026 Makefield Highlands Race – Mr. Rob Vandegrift from Parks and Rec was interviewed by the Yardley Voice small town news magazine. It was a great article on the townships commitment to fundraising for park accessibility. LMT has been working for several years to make parks and recreation facilities more inclusive for residents of all abilities. Mr. Vandegrift stated this is beyond important because LMT has the ADA Transition Plan which goes to helping

our local residents and non-residents come visit our parks and recreation facilities by giving them accessible options. He highlighted that funds have been used for upgrades to the Secret Garden playground, Five Mile Woods Nature Preserve accessible boardwalk, upgrades to parking lots, access to tennis courts, improved curbing, striping and safer walking surfaces. The DAB is happy to continue our partnership in making our community more accessible for all.

Halloween Custom Party	10/2/26
5 K Anyway Color Fun Run	10/11/26
Family Fun Holiday Party	12/4/26

### **WORKING WITH OTHER LMT COMMITTEES**

Ms. Huchler attended a meeting scheduled with Township Manager, Mr. Kratzer and Ms. Frain, township liaison to the Human Relations Committee. The DAB wanted to get more information on when inquiries come into the township how should they be forwarded based on the two committees mission statements. We discussed that inquires can come to both committees or just one and the committees can work together if related to someone with a disability concern. Ms. Huchler attended the Human Relations Committee (HRC) monthly meeting to explain what are committee does and have a conversation about what services their committee can provide. While Ms. Huchler originally thought the HRC committee was something residents might use as the “last resort” to settle an issue, residents can engage both of the committees for issues regarding disability. The DAB can give guidance on the ADA part of the concern and if the resident can’t get any further with their employer, retail establishment, HOA, etc. or needs additional guidance, the HRC committee is there to assist. This could be helping with legal issues, mitigation and arbitration.

The DAB looks forward to partnering with the HRC committee if needed.

### **LMT PARKS AND REC PROJECT UPDATES**

Memorial Park bathrooms - will be renovated this fall as part of the grant received. Mr. Kratzer, Township Manager sent over plans for review by the DAB. Ms. Huchler had thought the township was just renovating the existing bathrooms. However, upon review of the plans there will be a new structure closer to the parking lot leading to the playground areas and existing pavilion and bathrooms. The restroom structure will be constructed to match the exterior of the existing restroom/pavilion as much as practical.

Ms. Yeatts had asked that the township look into putting in large child/adult or adolescent changing tables, since the inclusive playground is adjacent to these bathrooms many children of all sizes play there. The prefabricated 2-unit restroom structure will have the requested special needs changing table. This will help parents of these children to attend to their needs while visiting the playground. Ms. Yeatts reviewed the plans and noted the tables are not “adult” size but can accommodate someone up to 4’10” such as an older child. For a playground area this should be adequate. In addition, the table will not be adjustable so it should be installed at a height between 19”-23” per guidelines. Once we have the complete plans, we can review in more detail.

The plans also showed a new playground towards the southwest end of the existing Secret Garden Inclusive playground. Mr. Kratzer said these were preliminary plans with samples of play equipment. Their goal is to make this a play area for 5-12 years old.

Ms. Huchler said the current grant will not cover shade. Maybe there is a way to purchase playground equipment that has it built into the structure – not sure that would pass.

Also, now is the time to take some of the feedback from the inclusive playground and make some changes. Users have asked if there could be infant/toddler swings in that area (bucket seat type swings). Since the new area will have plenty of regular swings it might be a chance to switch out some swings. The DAB is hoping we can collaborate with the township on the new playground designs and potential future shade structures.

Shade Grant – since the existing grant for Memorial Park will not provide shade we will continue to fundraise for those structures.

Ms. Smith asked if the current Shade Grant we are pursuing can be used for this area. Ms. Yeatts has been the lead on the Shade Grant project and has emailed Mr. Vandegrift on possible ideas. Ms. Yeatts explained before applying we have to have a Sun Safety Awareness program in place for 1 year. This would be a grant up to \$8,000 and it is non-matching. We are hoping to get something started to coincide with the opening of pool season and continue throughout the year. Ms. Smith asked if mentioning the programs in township publications would be enough.

Ms. Yeatts suggested doing an awareness program. She sent the info to Mr. Vandegrift with the package that outlines what types of things someone can do to get started. She will also be finding a dermatologist to sponsor this program. Ms. Huchler asked if we can get the word out by displaying flyers and posters up at the pool, put out on social meeting and Ms. Yeatts suggested coordinating with Camp LMT. How could we provide sunscreen to the public? Maybe we have dermatologists provide something to be given out with their name. Ms. Smith asked if a company that makes sunscreen would provide sample sizes with their name (free advertising).

Ms. Huchler said we are required to have a dermatologist so maybe they can work with companies to get the samples.

Ms. Yeatts said we can use the American Dermatologist Assoc curriculum easily accessed on line. They give bonus points to use their material. Ms. Huchler asked if we could use their material at our summer camp and we can send this along with the application showing how we incorporated their curriculum to young children. Ms. Yeatts said they have worksheets and info that could easily be used in a classroom setting.

Ms. Huchler said we could take our Sun Safety program to all LMT events that we are attending such as the 5k races, holiday parties, etc. Ms. Yeatts suggested sports programs. She will bring info to the dermatologist and keep us up to date on how we can help.

Trash cans – placing in parks again. Sent information to Derek Fuller, Public Works Director, regarding placement in compliance with ADA guidelines.

*When an accessible route is provided, relocate the trash can to be within 24" of the walkways.*

Other future projects we will continue to follow:

Pool Bathrooms

Community Center handicapped door and parking

Bike paths

Kids Kingdom

Veterans Park

Macclesfield Field

5 Mile woods grant. Expansion of boardwalk to be completed – no start date yet. Ms. Yeatts did mention that they are expanding the accessible area to the platform/classroom area.

### **GRANT UPDATES**

Accessible growing Microgrant

This grant is no longer available.

Ms. Huchler will ask Parks and Rec to keep on their list of Boy/Girl scout projects. We can still offer the community raised beds in the community gardens even without the grant monies. The scouts usually receive donations and/or fundraise as part of their badge program. Any scout interested can reach out to our group or with the Parks and Rec department.

Ms. Gambale attended a Senior meeting and they were looking for activities. She thought maybe the Senior group would be interested in the elevated beds. She also said that they have guest presenters at their meetings. She may ask if they are interested in having someone speak about the Sun Safety program that would be part of our Shade Grant year long program.

Ms. Yeatts updated us on a new facility being built in Bucks County called Playa Raya, an innovative, ultra-accessible play space designed for everyone. They just received a \$500,000 grant for work being completed. They are having a soft opening this year

Another grant is a "Yes you can Grant" She will look into this since it supports autism and special needs sports programs.

### **BUILDING PLAN REVIEW**

Ms. Huchler wanted to wish Mr. Jim Majewski, Director of Community Development a very happy retirement. He helped our committee in many ways over the past 9 years and thank him for working with us. Good Luck!

Prickett Plan Updates -No updates.

The Point

Ms. Huchler spoke to Mr. Majewski, Director of Community development prior to his retirement. 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 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. He did let us know that all first-floor units in the new structures at The Point will be accessible.

### **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. The consultants sent over suggested stakeholder interview questions to go over with the township boards, commissions, and committees.

The Disability Advisory Board (DAB) did not directly answer each question on the Stakeholder questionnaires and many questions did not apply to our Board. We tried to focus on accessibility, housing and safety.

For the DAB, one of the main areas of concern is housing that can provide different options for those with disabilities. We would like to see housing that is accessible but also might make available options such as cohousing.

Look into discussing the inclusive living opportunities taking shape in Doylestown area by groups such as The Front Porch and The Next Step programs. They have purchased properties and will include plans for residential housing, commercial market place and community programming. People with disabilities deserve more access to affordable housing options, community involvement and integrated employment.

Looking for residents/future residents to have the experience of work/live/play all in one vicinity. In addition, Ms. Smith asked if recreational areas could be provided for all different abilities and age groups promoting inclusion and community.

Another area is safety. Crossing a busy road even with lights is extremely dangerous for someone that might need extra time or assistance. Visual, audio, strobe lights at intersections, wait/walk type signals and proper lighting can make it safer with someone with a special need. Ms. Gamble suggested timed crossing lights which gives additional time to cross.

Not just concerned with crossing at Prickett Preserve light, there will be a 4-way intersection at Stony Hill and Township Line. Need to make that intersection safer to cross with new Farms Edge development.

We would like to see more open space with clustering of buildings. Scale the community and look at long term plans if certain stores go out of business; can it be repurposed. Build for the future not just current needs. Incorporate open space, walking paths, manmade ponds, provide areas to sit and rest in between.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

ADA Transition plan was approved by our board and sent over to Parks and Rec to bring to the BOS. Parks and Rec asked if we could attend the BOS meeting when the ADA Transition Plan is brought to them for approval. No date set.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Roll and Stroll event to be held in 2027– Ms. Huchler asked everyone to think of vendors we might like to see at the event. Vendor ideas are nonprofits groups inside or outside of our area that provide services to our residents, 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.

Vendors would bring their own tables and set up. They can provide info for children and adults of all ages and abilities. Ms. Gambale asked if she could check with some of the vendors who attended the health fair last year. Vendors such as Alpha Bavo service animals. The DAB will continue to discuss and plan at future meetings.

### **MEETING SCHEDULE**

Next meeting June 10, 2026 at 6:00 pm at the Township Building meeting room.  
Will meet every other month.

### **MEETING ADJOURNMENT**

Ms. Smith moved, Ms. Yeatts seconded to adjourn, approved unanimously.  
Meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Lisa Huchler  
Chair, Disability Advisory Board