

January 29, 2008

To: LMT Board of Supervisors

From: LMT EAC

Subject: 2007 Year End Review

As is our custom, the following information details some of the major, and we feel, noteworthy projects that the council has worked on during this past year. In addition, we are including a list of items that we are planning to work on in 2008.

The EAC accomplishments for the year 2007 are as follows:

1. Cool Cities and Mayor's Climate Agreement - The Mayor's Climate Agreement and the Sierra Club's Cool Cities Program embrace initiatives to combat Global Warming by reducing a community's carbon footprint. On March 21, 2007, LMT signed up for these programs and became the first community in Bucks County to do so.
2. Native Plant Ordinance – LMT's Native Plant Ord. was signed into law on April 4, 2007. This innovative ordinance mandates the use of native vegetation in developmental buffers and in all Township owned and controlled properties. It should be pointed out that LMT is one of a handful of East Coast municipalities to have legislation such as this on its books.
3. Regional Global Warming Conference – On May 19, 2007, the EAC sponsored a day long Global Warming Conference in one of the local schools. The 100+ attendees were treated to keynote addresses by Congressman Patrick Murphy, Nathan Wilcox of Penn Environment, Don Barber of Bryn Mawr college and Ronald Stouffer of NOAA. Plans are to make this an annual event.
4. LMT Farmers Market – The saying "Get Fresh on Thursday" became a household word when an outside farmers market sponsored by the EAC opened for business in the Edgewood Pocket Park in June. The market was a spectacular success and it is estimated that over 8,000 residents attended the market over the 16 weeks it was open. Only locally produced items may be sold at the market.
5. LMT Energy Audit – With the assistance of the EAC, LMT, on August 1, 2007, contracted with Sun Technics to perform a comprehensive energy audit of all major township facilities. In addition, as part of this audit, a solar proposal, with a grant funding request, will also be included. Sun Technics is a leader in the use of alternative energy and is the designer of one of the largest East Coast solar installations, currently being built in the nearby Boro of Tullytown.

6. L.I.D. (Low Impact Development) Award - On September 19, 2007, LMT was officially notified that its LID-Stormwater Management Ordinance, signed in December 2006, had won a Best in Class national recognition award, sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the Low Impact Development Center, a non-profit dedicated to balancing growth and environmental integrity, located in Beltsville, Md. Also, both the Sierra Club and the National Wildlife Federation sent letters congratulating the Township on this noteworthy environmental legislation.
7. Environmental Stewardship Award - On November 7, 2007, the LMT Board of Supervisors agreed to sponsor an annual Environmental Stewardship Award that will be administered by the EAC. Two \$500 awards will be given annually, one in the form of a scholarship to a local high school senior and the second to an individual or group. The awards will recognize noteworthy projects that have had a positive environmental impact.
8. Recycling Program Investigation - An investigation into LMT's recycling program uncovered the fact that, due to an outdated agreement, LMT was not receiving credit, as do all other communities in Bucks County, for recycling tonnages delivered to Otter Recycling. After this fact was noted by Township officials, appropriate steps have been taken to secure this money (approximately \$80,000/year) on a current basis. Also, letters continue to be written to Township businesses reminding them of their obligations to recycle under state and local laws.
9. Brock Creek Rehabilitation – Due to the time involved in analyzing bids that were higher than expected, LMT was in danger of losing a \$100,000 plus grant. With the timely assistance of EAC personnel, steps were taken to extend the grant time frame for another year.
10. Environmental Lecture Series – LMT has generated a following for the 3-4 environmental lectures given each year. In 2007, in addition to the Global Warming Regional Conference, LMT hosted two other lectures, one on Chemical Free Lawns, given by Mike McGrath, from the popular NPR radio show “You Bet Your Garden,” and the second on LMT's Cool Cities and Smart Power Programs.
11. Smart Power Award -In late 2006, LMT was the first community in Bucks County to sign up for the Smart Power Program, which committed our community to using 20% alternative energy by the year 2010. As part of our commitment, LMT, along with 20 other communities, was challenged to sign up an additional 200 residential customers in order to receive a small stand alone solar system or a \$10,000 grant towards a larger system. In late 2007, LMT was notified that we were the first community in Bucks to reach this goal, and, in addition, that our community had 314 new signups, the most of any of the 21 municipalities who signed up for the program.

12. Open Space Inventory – The EAC embarked on an open space inventory in the Township with the goal of identifying literally every parcel left in the Township, regardless of size, that could be developed. The information gathering phase of this project was completed in November of 2007. Maps detailing our findings are currently being produced and a presentation to the BOS will be scheduled early in the year.

13. Conferences Attended – In order to better understand the environmental processes and to increase skill levels, EAC members are encouraged to attend environmentally related seminars and conferences. The following lists a sampling of some of these educational programs:
 - a. Bowmans Hill land Ethics Symposium
 - b. Regional EAC conferences
 - c. Sierra Club Cool Cities Seminar
 - d. Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission – Global Warming Seminar
 - e. Villanova University Stormwater Management Conference

14. EAC Presentations – Since many environmental initiatives are regional in scope, LMT has taken some of its innovative programs such as our L.I.D. and Native Plant Ordinances, and our Cool Cities and Smart Power Programs, on the road to share with other concerned municipalities. In addition, the EAC was represented on a panel discussion on Climate Change, held in Middletown on October 4, 2007, that included Pa. State Department of Environmental Protection Secretary, Kathleen Mc Ginty, as one of the panelists.

The following list notes some of the projects the EAC intends to work on in the current year:

1. Global Warming Conference – Our second annual Global Warming Conference is slated for May 10, 2008. The format for this conference will be keynote speakers followed by a panel that will be discussing primarily legislative initiatives in the field of Global Warming.

2. Open Space Inventory-Plans are to present the EAC findings to the Board of Supervisors in the first quarter of the year. With the recent approval by Bucks County of an 89 million dollar bond initiative for open space, LMT should be well poised, with its new inventory in hand, to tap that resource.

3. Drainage Basin Project – The EAC received approval from the BOS on Oct. 17, 2007 to perform an environmental and economic analysis on the benefits of allowing drainage basins to “Return to Nature” . This analysis, which will be based on a sampling of approx. 10 selected basins , is slated to begin in the early part of 2008 after which the results will be presented to the BOS for their consideration.

4. Cool Cities Action Plan and Emissions Inventory – Current plans are to have the cool Cities Action Plan that will list LMT’s strategies to reduce our carbon footprint, completed by Fall of 2008.

Plans are also currently underway to enlist outside organizations to assist LMT in calculating a base CO2 emissions inventory for the Township, a necessary step in measuring future goal performance.

5. LMT's Recycling Ordinance - The EAC plans on updating the Township's 1993 recycling ordinance by expanding the list of recyclable materials to better reflect what currently can be recycled. Among the items to be added are more types of paper, such as junk mail, computer paper, magazines, etc.; green and brown glass; and, for residents, cardboard (businesses currently must recycle cardboard.)
6. Brock Creek Stream Rehabilitation – With funding in place once again, current plans are to revegetate certain sections of the stream bank in Spring of 2008. In order to maximize efficiency and lower cost, volunteer cadres will be used for this purpose.
7. Trash Hauling Contract – The EAC is of the opinion that LMT should explore the possibility of retaining a single contractor for trash pickup within the Township. Not only could such a system result in positive environmental benefits, but our experience in looking at other programs has indicated that significant economic benefits could also accrue to Township residents. Also, we could tailor make a recycling program that would make LMT a model community for others to follow. Currently, we are assembling information from other municipalities. It is our intention to share this, as well as our suggestions, with the Board during the first half of 2008.
8. Green Building Code for LMT – The EAC is of the opinion that positive environmental and economic benefits could accrue if LMT signed a Green building code Ordinance, stipulating that any new or renovated Township buildings must be LEEDs certified. In addition, we are currently analyzing the feasibility of making this a requirement for commercial entities as well. We plan on inviting guest speakers to educate Township officials on the process and it is our goal to have recommendations in place some time in the second half of the year.
9. Land Use Reviews – As in years past, the EAC will be challenged to come up with sound environmental recommendations for the land applications that will be reviewed throughout the year. With respect to these reviews, it is encouraging to note that the developers for the three most recent commercial land use applications, are opting for Green Buildings (LEEDS certified.) It seems that the word is getting out that “green” is the way to go in LMT.
10. Solar Proposal for LMT – As part of the comprehensive energy audit that will be presented in early 2008, LMT will also have a solar proposal as part of the package. The EAC is proposing a trip, for all interested parties, to Media Borough, to view first hand their state of the art system. The EAC has long been on record as solar advocates and will work with the Township to procure any appropriate grants to make solar a reality in LMT.

11. Environmental Lecture Series – In addition to the Global Warming Conference, plans are to schedule 2 or 3 other lectures dealing with topics such as the benefits of building “Green” schools, and how municipalities can adopt Green Building Codes into their ordinances.

It is our opinion that 2007 has been a successful year for the EAC and we are looking forward to the challenges and opportunities that 2008 will bring. Also, it has been a privilege for the EAC to have worked with a Board of Supervisors and Twp. Mgr. with such a strong environmental conscience. The positive results of this partnership speak for themselves.

Sincerely,

LMT EAC

Cc: T. Fedorchak, LMT Manager
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