

To: LMT Board of Supervisors

February 7, 2009

From: LMT EAC

Subject: 2008 Year-end Review

For the past several years, it has been an EAC tradition to prepare a year-end review of the significant and noteworthy projects the Council has worked on during the year. Also, this review has contained a section detailing projects we anticipate working on in the current year.

Following below is a descriptive list of items the EAC has worked on in 2008, as well as a listing of projects that we would like to see move forward in 2009.

1. Open Space Inventory and Bond Referendum – Several members of the EAC concluded an exhaustive inventory of all remaining buildable parcels in LMT. The results of this inventory (approximately 300 properties were reviewed) were presented to the BOS at three separate executive sessions throughout the year. Impressed by the results, the BOS placed a 15 million dollar open space bond referendum on the November ballot that passed by more than a two to one majority.
2. Energy Audit and Solar Presentation – On May 7, 2008 Sun Technics, a leading PA alternative energy firm, presented its energy audit of the LMT administrative facilities to the BOS at a public meeting. LMT has already incorporated some of the recommendations and is currently in the process of adopting others. It should be noted that the potential yearly savings of \$27,000+ is significantly higher than the cost of the audit itself. In addition, Sun Technics also provided LMT with a solar proposal that, if adopted, could significantly lower Township electrical costs and also help to remove our dependency on foreign oil.
3. Global Warming Conference – LMT's second annual Global Warming Conference was held on May 10, 2008 at the LMT Admin. Bldg. This well-attended half day affair had as its focus legislative initiatives on the state, county and local township levels. Speakers included Spencer Finch, Director, Sustainable Development Programs, PA Environmental Council, Lynn Bush, the Executive Director of the Bucks County Planning Commission, and keynote speaker, Melanie Fitzpatrick, Ph.D., a Northeast Climate Specialist and member of the Union of Concerned Scientists.
4. Northeast Native Plant Conference Presentation – The Northeast Native Plant Conference, held at Millersville University, is the most prestigious conference of its type in the Eastern United States. Over 400 people attend this annual event to hear experts discuss various topics related to the burgeoning native plant movement. Because of its innovative, progressive Native Plant Ordinance, LMT was invited to have a representative discuss this ordinance at the conference. The lecture was well-attended and generated a lot of interest and also helped to enhance the positive image of LMT as an environmentally sensitized community.
5. Drainage Basin Project – There are well over 100 drainage basins in LMT, most of which are grass planted and demand expensive maintenance. This EAC project would allow selective basins to return to a natural state saving maintenance dollars, as well as yielding significant environmental benefits associated to recharging groundwater. A presentation was made to the BOS on September 17, followed

by a town meeting on October 18, 2008. Based on citizen input, we are selecting alternate basins and plan to present a modified plan to the BOS in 2009.

6. Green Building Code – On June 4, 2008, the EAC presented an informational session on the benefits associated to Green Building Codes for municipalities, as well as for residential and commercial development. Guest speaker, Spencer Finch, Sustainability Director of the PA Environmental Council, discussed the environmental benefits, as well as the significant costs savings that can accrue through building “Green.” The EAC plan is to have LMT lead by example by adopting a Green Code for the Township which will be followed by an incentivized code for future residential and commercial developments in the Township.
7. Recycling Evaluation – The EAC conducted an analysis of recycling activity in the various LMT parks and recreational facilities. As a result of this project, LMT will be procuring many additional recycling receptacles that will be placed in strategic locations throughout the Town.
8. Cool Cities – CO2 Emissions Inventory – On November 5, 2008, the Cool Cities EAC Committee presented its calculation report of LMT’s CO2 Base Inventory to the Board of Supervisors during a public session. This eye opening report will serve as the base against which future action plan projects will be measured.
9. LMT’s Butterfly Garden – On October 2, 2008, EAC personnel together with Boy Scouts from Troop 10 in LMT planted a native plant butterfly garden on the Edgewood Road side of the administration building. Aside from the positive aesthetic component, and the environmental benefits, the garden, hopefully, will stimulate LMT residents to plant similar gardens in their own yards.
10. Environmental Stewardship Award – On December 3, 2008, the EAC and Township officials presented the first annual Environmental Stewardship Award to township resident, Catherine Beath. Ms. Beath’s award was based on a native meadow planting of wildflowers on her property that not only incorporated sound environmental features, but was strikingly beautiful, as well. Since the \$500 stipend must be donated to a local environmental organization, Ms. Beath chose LMT’s Five Mile Woods as the recipient.
11. Land Use Reviews – Over the past year, the EAC reviewed a dozen land use applications and presented our evaluations to the BOS, as well as to other interested parties. As another set of eyes for the Township, these evaluations have helped to stimulate L.I.D. design innovations as well as pointing out environmental design problems that otherwise might have gone unnoticed.
12. Municipal Trash Hauler Proposal – On December 3, 2008, after careful study, the LMT EAC presented a well-thought-out proposal recommending changes to the Township trash pickup delivery system. This project not only entailed significant environmental benefits to the Town, but could have saved residents significant moneys as well. At this time, the BOS has determined, for a variety of reasons, that they do not desire to move forward with this project.
13. Environmental Lecture Series – In 2008, in addition to the Regional Global Warming Conference, a lecture on the construction of Green Schools proved to be timely, as one of our own schools – Makefield Elementary – is currently in the planning stages of a green retrofit. This well-attended lecture, held on March 31, was presented by Jason Kliwinski, an architect skilled in green school design, along with Lorna Rosenberg, an environmental specialist with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. In addition, on April 23, 2008, LMT hosted a seminar on composting presented by the Bucks County Penn State Master

Gardener Organization. The attendees received a free composting bin courtesy of a grant from the PA D.E.P.

14. Conference Attendance – To facilitate learning about environmental issues, EAC members are encouraged to attend local and regional seminars and lectures, especially when new and innovative programs are being presented. Following are some of the programs attended by EAC members:
 - a. Green Forum Meeting – Heritage Conservancy
 - b. Bowmans Hill Land Ethics Symposium
 - c. Southeast PA EAC Conference – Villanova University
 - d. Fairleigh Dickinson University – “Climate Change Markets”
 - e. Solebury Township Watershed Seminar
15. Outreach Presentations – Because of the many innovative environmental programs that have become part of the fiber of LMT, other communities and agencies have reached out to us to share the reasons for our success. Accordingly, on approximately 20 occasions in 2008, LMT EAC representatives have reached out to other communities to explain the story behind the success of our program. A sampling of communities and organizations we have reached out to include:
 - a. U.S. EPA at DelVal College
 - b. Southeastern PA EACs, including Bethlehem, Allentown, Swarthmore, Newtown, Lehigh Valley, and Warminster
 - c. The Governor’s Energy Initiatives at Bensalem
 - d. Morrisville’s Tree Tender Seminar
 - e. Bucks County Sierra Club
 - f. Bucks County Planning Commission
 - g. Congressman Murphy’s “Green” meetings at LMT
 - h. Bucks County Chamber of Commerce.
16. Recycling Ordinance Changes – The Township’s recycling ordinance was modified to expand the list of items that can be recycled by both residents and commercial concerns. The expanded list includes magazines, catalogues, all types of office paper and cardboard.
17. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Award – On September 25, 2008, LMT received an Achievement Award from the U.S. E.P.A., for the many environmental initiatives that have taken place in our town over the last couple of years. It should be noted that LMT was the only community so distinguished in the whole Mid-Atlantic Region of the U.S., comprising over 40 million people. In a ceremony at the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia, the award was given to LMT representatives by Stephen L. Johnson, then Exec. Dir. of the U.S. E.P.A.

The following list includes some of the projects the EAC will be working on in 2009:

1. Cool Cities – An emphasis will be placed on the creation of an action plan for LMT that will list and prioritize initiatives designed to lower our carbon footprint. As part of that process, the Committee will develop an emissions reduction goal, an integral part of the Cool Cities program.
2. Global Warming Conference – Our 3rd annual Global Warming Conference will be held on April 25, 2009, 8am-12pm at the LMT administration building. The emphasis at this year’s conference will be how we as consumers can become a positive force in confronting climate change.

3. LMT Rain Garden – The EAC is in the process of applying for a grant from “Bucks Beautiful” to design and install a rain garden on the Edgewood Road side of the township building. If the grant is received, the garden will be planted in spring or early summer by EAC members and volunteers.
4. Drainage Basin Project – Basins for naturalizing will be evaluated by the EAC and the recommendations will be presented to the BOS in a public meeting.
5. Smart Power Solar Installation – For its success in signing up alternative energy customers, LMT was awarded a 1 kw solar system by the Smart Power energy group. Current plans are to install this model system on the LMT administration building in the first half of 2009.
6. Green Building Code – As a first step in the process of developing green building codes for the Township, as well as for residential and commercial, the EAC will be presenting, along with experts in the field, a draft resolution for a Township code for evaluation by the BOS.
7. Solar Proposal for LMT – The EAC and Township Manager will be evaluating proposal(s) for a large scale solar installation for LMT. What we are seeking is outside funding that will result in significant cost savings for the LMT community.
8. Historic Tree Program – Using an existing Bucks County Audubon Historic Tree Registry EAC plans are to investigate the feasibility of designing a program to identify and protect such historic trees that are growing within LMT’s borders.
9. Modification of L.I.D. Ordinance in both Chapter 78 (SALDO) and Chapter 200 (Zoning) for specific performance standards. For example:
 - a. Revise use of CN Values (Runoff Co-efficients) to better reflect site hydrologic conditions.
 - b. Requirement for a minimum bio-retention area that will be based on the number of parking spaces in commercial developments.
 - c. Hardship waiver required for below ground detention/infiltration basins.
10. PA Campaign for Clean Water – Based on state parameters, obtain an endorsement from the Board of Supervisors for the PA Clear Water Campaign.
11. Environmental Lecture Series – In the Fall of 2009, the LMT EAC, in collaboration with Bowmans’ Hill Wildflower Preserve, is bringing Doug Tallamy, educator (Professor, Dept. of Entomology and Wildlife, Univ. of Delaware) and noted author (Bringing Nature Home) to our Town for a discussion on Native Plants, Insects and the Future of Bio-Diversity in Suburbia.

We feel that 2008 has been a successful year for the Council and we are looking forward to the projects we will be advancing this year. Thank you for your past and future support.

Sincerely,

LMT EAC

Cc: T. Fedorchak, LMT Manager
 LMT EAC Members
 LMT Plan. Comm. Members
 Township Engineer
 LMT ZIP Director
 LMT Attorney
 Citizens Traffic Chairperson

