

February 1, 2010

To: LMT Board of Supervisors

From: LMT EAC: Chairman Geoff Goll, Vice Chairman Rick Ewing, Members Laura Brandt, Jim Bray, Alan Dresser, Joe Sundeen, Lisa Grayson-Zygmunt.

Subject: Environmental Advisory Council - 2009 Year-end Review

Since year-end 2006, it has become a practice for the LMT EAC to prepare a year-end review of the noteworthy projects the Council has completed and/or worked on throughout the year. In addition, this review also contains a list of projects we hope to tackle in the current 2010 year.

We have had another successful year. And this is due not only to the dedicated EAC members, but to the positive environmental vision of the Board of Supervisors, as well as to the many Township residents who volunteered during the year to help advance our programs. An engaged citizenry is the key to success; we thank you one and all.

The following is a list and description of the 2009 EAC Projects:

1. Open Space Inventory and Plan – Bucks county Planning commission wrote updated plan for LMT, using EAC inventory as a guide. Plan dated June 26, 2009 and approved by BOS on Aug. 19, 2009 –The EAC continues to advise LMT, at their request, on selected property acquisitions.
2. Climate Change Conference – Held April 25, 2009 – This year marks the third time this conference was held. The first year in 2007 focused on National and global issues. The second year in 2008 focused on PA State issues and initiatives. In 2009, the focus was on local issues: “What can be done on local basis ?, e.g. energy audits”.
3. Drainage Basin Project – 15 basins were naturalized – some through tilling and planting native vegetation - in 2009. Another approx. 20 have been proposed for 2010. This successful program has saved the township over \$500 for each basis in the program.
4. Five Mile Woods Plant Inventory – Through a cooperative effort with Bowman’s Hill Wildflower Preserve, the Township contracted the completion of a Plant Stewardship Index (PSI) which evaluated the plant diversity in the park. Due to over-browse by deer and the encroachment of invasive species of plants, there is a concern that the diversity that caused the preservation of the “Woods” was being lost. This survey provided a snapshot in time to allow for future monitoring of restoration and control measures.
5. Municipal Trash Hauler Proposal – While this proposal was not accepted by the BOS, due in part to significant public (and corporate) opposition, it was proposed as a means to lower the cost for the taxpayer, as well as reduce green house gas emissions. While not approved, its consideration by the BOS was appreciated.
6. Cool Cities – Action Plan – Set up committee to write the plan – 4 steps in process 1. Sign Mayors Climate Agreement; 2. Prepare CO2 inventory (completed last year); 3. Write action plan (emission reduction projects); 4. Monitor and evaluate projects. The Idea is to engage the community in a collaborative effort to write the Plan – Goal completion date is 3rd q 2010.
7. EAC Newsletter – first letter March 2009 – using list server to reach out to over 400 people on our list. This effort has been highly successful in educating the community regarding the environmental initiatives that have taken place in LMT as well as in other communities.

8. LMT Green Building Code – Approved Nov., 2009 – This innovative, forward thinking project approved by the BOS – LMT first local municipality in State to have such a code – applies to new municipal construction and renovations over 2500 square feet – minimum LEED certification Silver. This initiative is expected to save the Township significant dollars in future energy costs .
9. Recycling Survey Grant – \$8,000 grant received to gather information on the habits, preferences and activities of local businesses and residences. The results of the survey will be used to improve the services provided by contractors as well as ensuring compliance with the State law.
10. LED Light Grant - Using the EAC sponsored energy audit as a springboard, LMT applied for, and received, a \$250,000 grant for LED lights throughout Township including traffic lights and parking lot illumination.
11. Solar Grant – LMT applied for a large grant to install solar lighting to make the administrative facility self-sufficient. This grant was not awarded, however, we look to other opportunities available in the future.
12. Outreach Presentations – LMT in forefront of environmental movement – other communities reaching out to us for assistance. Topics covered were 1.) LMT initiatives; 2.) LMT Native Plant Ordinance; 3.) LMT's keys to success. The following is a sampling of some of the 16 organizations and communities we have reached out to during 2009:
 - a. S.E.Pa. Annual EAC Conference
 - b. Warminster Township EAC
 - c. Bucks County Stewardship Council
 - d. Bucks Green Expo
 - e. Bucks Environmental Forum – Newtown, Pa.
 - f. Towamencin Township EAC and Twp. Mgr.
 - g. International Climate League (ICLEI) presentation at White Plains, New York
 - h. Congressman Murphy Meeting – LMT Initiatives
13. Conference Attendance – EAC members encouraged to broaden their expertise – following are some of the seminars attended during 2009:
 - a. EAC Summit by PA Environmental Council, Philadelphia, PA
 - b. Bowman's Hill Land Ethics Symposium
 - c. EPA Sponsored Green Building Conference – Wyncote, Pa.
 - d. Bowman's Hill Native Plant Lectures – Winter Lecture Series
 - e. Millersville Native Plant Conference
14. Bucks Beautiful Grant - Received \$500 matching grant. Planted Native Plant Demonstration Garden outside tax office with a variety of native shrubs, perennials, and grasses.
15. Solar System Installed – 1 kw system – installed August 2009 at the Township Administration Building – system awarded to LMT for signing up over 200 (350 actually) new alternative energy customers as part of Smart Power Initiative.
16. Recycling Education – EAC subgroup formed to educate youth on recycling – 9 sessions in 2009 – Girl Scouts – school students, Pennsbury and New Hope-Solebury. – Objective was to educate children on the importance of environmental protection and awareness.
17. Environmental Lecture Series – The highlight for 2009 was a lecture entitled, "Attracting Birds, Butterflies, and Beneficial Insects to Your Garden," co-sponsored by Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve (BHWP). Doug Tallamy Ph.D. author of the book "Bringing Nature Home," spoke about the connection between native plants and insects. Over 80 people attended. After the lecture BHWP held native plant sale in the township building parking lot.
18. Land Use Reviews – EAC reviewed 10 land development applications in 2009.

19. Governors Award for Environmental Excellence – LMT only municipality in PA so honored – Cool Cities was selected project – date of award ceremony attended by LMT –EAC members, plus State Representative Santarsiero, was April 22, 2009. Held at Harrisburg Hilton.

The following is a list of projects that the LMT EAC intends to work on in the current 2010 year:

1. Cool Cities Action Plan – Series of meetings will be held in January to enlist volunteers to write action plan – proposed completion date third quarter 2010.
2. Recycling Survey – The recycling grant study results will be reviewed and disseminated before end of first half 2010.
3. Tree Tenders Program – Goal is to plant 25 bare root trees in Oxford Valley Rd softball Complex in April 2010.
4. Recycling Education – Goal is one presentation a month.
5. Solar Installation – The EAC and Township Manager will continue to seek out and evaluate a significant solar installation proposal for LMT – Plans are to meet with financiers and energy providers and to seek out grant opportunities.
6. Environmental Lecture Series – Two to four per year – one scheduled for March 13, 2010 entitled “Coal Country”, a documentary that will be co-sponsored by the Sierra Club.
7. Drainage Basin Project – Plan is to continually add new basins to become naturalized and to cut those basins only once per year – perhaps seed some on trial basis.
8. Green Building Codes – Investigate designing Residential and Commercial incentivized codes.
9. Modify LID Ordinance –
 - a. Revise methodology used to measure stormwater volumes (CN values).
 - b. Set up requirements for minimum bio-retention area based on number of parking spaces in commercial developments
 - c. Require hardship waiver for use of below ground basins
10. Open Space Plan – EAC will continue to assist LMT BOS and Township Manager on an as needed basis to evaluate and make recommendations on specific properties of interest to the Town.
11. Native Plant Garden – EAC will submit grant to Bucks Beautiful to expand Administration Building gardens.
12. Cell Phone Recycling – Will start in February – receptacle in lobby of Admin building – proceeds from “Terracycle” will be donated to Veterans Memorial project (note: some cell phones will go to Haitians through the recycling program).
13. Expand Joint Ventures – With Sierra Club, Bowmans Hill, Delaware River Keeper, et al.

While not mentioned or listed above, it is also the intent of this EAC to reach out to the Friends of Five Mile Woods to research options for increasing awareness of this park, and assess ways to increase its significance as an education center similar to that of Bowman’s Hill Wildflower Preserve, Silver Lake Nature Center, and Churchville Nature Center. There is no reason that this unique geological and ecological treasure in Lower Makefield cannot be used to increase environmental awareness as well as to provide evidence of the commitment of this Township to environmental education and preservation, which in turn preserves the quality of life throughout our community and region.

We are looking forward to the projects we will be working on in 2010. As always, it is a privilege to serve the people of LMT. We thank you again for your past, as well as future, support.

Sincerely – The LMT EAC

Cc: T. Fedorchak, LMT Manager
LMT EAC Members
LMT Planning Commission Members
Township Engineer
LMT ZIP Director
LMT Attorney
Citizens Traffic Commission Chairperson
Parks and Recreation Chairperson
Friends of Five Mile Woods