

January 31,2013

To: LMT Board of Supervisors
From: LMT EAC
Subject: 2012 Year End Review

As has been our custom in past years, the EAC is submitting this year end review that highlights the various projects we have worked on in 2012. The report also summarizes the projects we are intending to pursue in 2013.

This report will be widely distributed so that the BOS and LMT's citizens become aware of the positive work being done in our Town by a dedicated group of volunteers. Being good stewards of the land also translates into sound economics and, as will be noted, many of the EAC projects have returned significant monies to LMT's citizens.

The report is as follows:

- 1) Drainage Basin Naturalization Program – There are approximately 150 drainage basins and open space areas in Lower Makefield that are being maintained by the Township. Several years ago, the EAC initiated a naturalization program that drastically cut back the mowing required to maintain those areas. As in the past, new basins have been added to the program in 2012 (approximately 12) that has resulted in additional savings for our Township. This program results in natural vegetation restoration, enhanced air quality and flood control and the restoration of significant bird habitat. And, it saves LMT taxpayers approximately \$60,000/year in real monies.
- 2) Cool Cities Buy Local, Buy Green Campaign – The Cool Cities plan is a national concept underwritten by the Sierra Club, that stresses the positive steps that must be taken by a community to address environmental sustainability, especially with respect to climate change. The plan has been completed and the Cool Cities Committee within the EAC is moving forward with a Buy Local, Buy Green project that will highlight the role of local businesses in achieving environmental and economic sustainability goals.
- 3) Open Space Acquisition - In February of 2012, the LMT EAC made a presentation to the BOS highlighting the positive reasons to procure the 7.1 acre Ragan tract on West Ferry Road as part of LMT's Open Space Inventory. It should be noted that this tract of land was purchased with a portion of LMT's allotment from the Bucks County Open Space Board and no Township money was involved in this purchase. The final papers for this acquisition were signed in late 2012. Since property values generally increase in areas contiguous to open space areas, it is no surprise that area residents have had very positive reactions regarding this acquisition.
- 4) Recycling – Last year the Township received a grant for \$85,900 from the State for recycling 4,130 tons in 2009. This total includes recycling by both the residential and commercial sectors.

The EAC took several actions to increase recycling in the Township. As in previous years, the EAC worked to ensure that recycling occurred at the three large sports tournaments that take place in the Township each year; the Mother's Day weekend girls' soccer tournament, the Father's Day weekend girls' softball tournament, and the Columbus Day weekend boys' soccer tournament. Also, the EAC drafted a one page flyer and had it inserted in the mailed March 2012 property tax bills that reminded residents that all waste haulers now have single-stream recycling and an expanded list of recyclable items. The EAC helped the Township negotiate an agreement with Hough Associates that will increase the value of the 2011 904 recycling grant received from the State. A number of recycling sources missed by Hough Associates in their collection of data for the 2011 904 grant were identified by the EAC and subsequently included in the grant application. In the coming year the EAC plans to contact business offices in the Township to remind them that they are required to recycle and provide them with information on how to set-up an effective recycling program. Also, in May of 2012 a joint effort Electronics Waste Recycling day was held with Leck organization that proved successful way past our expectations. Over 300 residents dropped off electronic waste and based on their very positive comments, we will be holding a similar event next year.

- 5) Audubon Bird Town Program - This innovative program that is a logical outgrowth of LMT's Native Plant Ordinance details how homeowners can conserve their property while creating a more sustainable habitat for birds in our community. EAC member and Bird Town Coordinator Laura Brandt will continue her efforts, with EAC support, to continue to add new members to this national program.
- 6) Makefield and Afton School Learning Gardens – The EAC will continue to supply technical and hands-on expertise to ensure that these gardens fulfill their stated goals of making our children better land stewards. These gardens foster stewardship by giving our children the opportunity to touch the land, enhancing their appreciation of what is involved in growing the flowers and vegetables that sustain us all.
- 7) Outreach Presentations - As an acknowledged environmental leader, the LMT EAC continues to receive invitations to speak in other communities to discuss the keys to our success. In 2012, EAC representatives gave presentations at the following venues:
 - a. Lower Southampton Township – LMT's presentation on environmental initiatives
 - b. Grey Nun Academy – Panel judges for student problem based environmental learning projects
 - c. PSATS Conference – Hershey, Pa. – Presentation on LMT's Basin Naturalization Program
 - d. Del Val Green Building Council – Joint meeting at LMT's public library – presentation of LMT EAC initiatives and meet the Congressional candidates
 - e. Bristol Township – Presentation on LMT's environmental initiatives
- 8) Land Use Reviews – As per our role as a land use review board, the EAC is required to comment on any land use proposal flowing through LMT. In 2012, the EA submitted detailed analyses on the following applications:
 - a. Aria Hospital – January 4, 2012
 - b. Freemans Farm – January 31, 2012
 - c. Scammels Corner – March 18, 2012

- d. Bright Farms - May 11, 2012
 - e. Hoch Property – June 7, 2012
 - f. Samost Tract – November 19, 2012
 - g. Bullard Property – June 27, 2012, December 13, 2012
 - h. Jennings Tract – December 13, 2012
- 9) Conference Attendance – One of our primary goals is to bring back to the citizens of LMT environmental ideas of merit. In order to accomplish this, EAC members are encouraged to attend events that showcase ideas that might have a practical application in our community. The following list highlights some of these presentations attended by EAC personnel:
- a. Natural Gas Drilling in PA – Morrisville Library
 - b. Forested Riparian Buffers – Stroud Water Research Center
 - c. Sustainability in Construction – Delaware Valley Green Building Council
 - d. EAC Regional Meeting – Doylestown, PA
 - e. Pervious Paving Seminar – June 5 and 7, 2012
 - f. Bowman’s Hill Land Ethics Symposium

The following is a list of projects that the EAC intends to pursue in 2013:

- 1) Drainage Basin Naturalization – Additional basins and open space areas will continue to be added to this very successful program.
- 2) Cool Cities – Buy Local Buy Green Campaign – A list of local LMT businesses, classified by category, is currently being put together by Cool Cities Committee volunteers.
- 3) Recycling – We will continue to promote recycling in Lower Makefield for both environmental and economic reasons. Special emphasis this year will be placed on expanding recycling by businesses in LMT. We will work with the administration to get the word out that recycling is required by law and that the Town receives substantial monies from the State from every ton of recycled trash. Also, on October 5, 2013, a second Electronic Waste Recycling event will be held at the LMT municipal building. This will be a joint project with the EAC and the Leck organization and we hope to duplicate last year’s incredibly successful event.
- 4) Environmental Lecture Series – Through the generosity of the BOS, we again have a substantial enough budget to hold several events as part of our well-attended Environmental Lecture Series. Proposed topics this year include “The Economic Value of Open Space” and “The Miracle of Bird Migrations.” These free events will be well publicized through the EAC newsletter, LMT’s web and cable TV, as well as the local newspapers.
- 5) Open Space Program – In a past referendum and during an economic downturn, over 70% of LMT’s voters approved a 15 million dollar Open Space Bond. Although the economy has showed significant improvement, there are still attractively priced properties that could be advantageous to procure. LMT also has over \$400,000 remaining of open space funds from Bucks County that can be used to purchase desirable properties as well. The EAC plans to meet with the BOS throughout the year to identify some of these currently available properties.
- 6) Expand Joint Ventures – In the past, we have worked together with Bowmans Hill Wildflower Preserve and our own Economic Development Commission to hold topical environmental events. Based on the past success of such collaborations, it is our intent to continue this practice.

- 7) Historic Tree Preservation Ordinance – Currently, LMT is home to many incredibly old and large trees that fall into an “historic” tree category. In 2013 we will explore the possibility of identifying and preserving some of these trees so that future generations of townspeople will enjoy co-existing with these natural wonders.
- 8) LMT Community Center – There is a strong possibility a site will be chosen in 2013 for the building of a community center. We have an EAC introduced Green Building Code in LMT that will ensure both the environmental and economic value of such a structure. The EAC will continue to work with the BOS and the Planning Commission by offering our green building expertise when the building process commences.

The year 2012 was a productive one for the Environmental Advisory Council. It is our steadfast opinion that good environmental projects translate into sound economic savings for the citizens of LMT. As in past years, EAC projects such as Basin Naturalization and increased recycling efforts have added significant black ink to our community’s bottom line. It is our pledge to continue such efforts. As always, it is both a privilege and a pleasure to serve the people of Lower Makefield.

Sincerely,

The LMT EAC

Jim Bray, Chairperson
Alan Dresser, Vice Chairperson
Mark Bortman, Member
Rick Ewing, Member
Paul Roden, Member
Gail Stringer, Member
Joe Sundeen, Member
Laura Brandt, Alternate Member

Cc: T. Fedorchak, LMT Manager
LMT EAC
LMT Planning Commission
N. Frick, LMT ZIP Director
J. Gartan, LMT Attorney
V. Torbert, CTC Chairperson
D. Fritchey, Parks and Rec Chairperson