

Lower Makefield Township  
Environmental Advisory Council  
January 8, 2014  
Meeting Minutes

Those Present: James Bray, Chairman  
Alan Dresser, Vice Chairman  
Mark Bortman, Member  
Rick Ewing, Member  
Gail Stringer, Member

Also in attendance: Cynthia D'Alessio, Resident; Matthew Bulger, Resident

Mr. Bray called the January 8, 2014 meeting of the Environmental Advisory Council to order at 7:10PM. The first order of business was the review and approval of the December 11, 2013 EAC meeting minutes; the minutes were approved unanimously, as written.

**Election of EAC Officers for 2014** – Mr. Ewing nominated Mr. Bray as Chairman, and Mr. Bortman seconded the motion. A vote was taken and Mr. Bray was unanimously elected to continue as EAC Chairman. Mr. Ewing nominated Mr. Dresser as Vice Chairman, and Mr. Bortman seconded the motion. A vote was taken and Mr. Dresser was unanimously elected to continue as EAC Vice Chairman. Mr. Bray said that 2014 may be his last year on the Environmental Advisory Council.

**Project Leader Assignments** – Mr. Bray reported that he had discussed project leader assignments with members of the EAC and the following assignments were agreed upon:

- Paul Roden – Newsletter, updating data base, web related issues and interface with Township on electronic issues
- Mark Bortman – Solar and alternative energy lectures, basin naturalization, rain barrels, and compost bins
- Gail Stringer – Cool Cities Buy Local Program
- Rick Ewing – Land use reviews, outreach
- Alan Dresser – Land use reviews, recycling, open space, pervious pavement ordinance
- Jim Bray – Open space, land use reviews, outreach
- Cynthia D'Alessio – Open space, Patterson Farm tree plaque, historic tree ordinance, LMT Tree Tenders
- Jeanne Bray – Environmental lecture series, recycling

Mrs. D'Alessio spoke about the research she has done regarding tree ordinances, suggesting that there is a need for LMT to have a master plan for managing tree resources. That way, she feels, any new

ordinances will be an objective toward our goal. She offered to compile information on where we are with regard to tree canopy, what tree resources we have, and what ordinances are in place. Mr. Bray agreed that that is a worthy goal, but also a huge project. He suggested that the first step is to start with the plaque for the cucumber magnolia on Patterson Farm, then work on the historic tree ordinance.

**Cool Cities Buy Local** – Mrs. Stringer distributed copies of a draft letter to be sent to all businesses in LMT, to determine if they are interested in being listed in the Buy Local business directory. Some revisions were suggested. Mrs. Stringer will make the changes and send the letter out. As Mrs. Stringer receives responses, she will follow up with the businesses by phone; if, and when, there are too many calls for Mrs. Stringer to handle, she will e-mail the questionnaire instead of calling.

**Open Space** – The last time Mr. Bray and Mr. Dresser met with Mr. Fedorchak, they discussed presenting the EAC open space proposal to the BOS in Executive Session.

**Pervious Pavement Ordinance** – Mr. Koopman finished reviewing the Ordinance and forwarded it to the Bucks County Planning Commission. There are concerns among the EAC about some language in the Ordinance; if Mr. Dresser and Mr. Bray have the opportunity, they will raise those issues when they meet with the Planning Commission on January 27. The presentation of the Ordinance to the LMT BOS will be scheduled for March.

**LMT Tree Tenders** – Mr. Bray reported that Mr. Fedorchak is willing to remove all of the Bradford Pear trees from the LMT complex. The EAC, working with others, will design a comprehensive tree and shrub plan for the Township complex. This will be discussed at the next EAC meeting.

Mrs. D’Alessio reported that the Tree Tenders would like to replace the dead trees on the Roelofs ballfield with new trees. Mr. Bray suggested that Mrs. Alessio talk to Mr. Fedorchak about getting the trees they need. The builders who have removed trees in the process of building new developments owe the Township not only replacement trees, but are required to help plant the trees.

**Land Use Reviews** – Mr. Bray distributed copies of the preliminary plans for Moon Nursery to Mr. Dresser and Mr. Ewing, and he kept a copy for himself. The deadline for comments is the end of January.

**Recycling** – There was discussion of recycling Christmas trees; the Township does not recycle them but Mr. Dresser thinks the waste haulers do. Mr. Dresser will talk about the Leck Electronics recycling event at the next EAC meeting.

**Environmental Lecture Series** – Mr. Bray mentioned that LMT’s mini-Tree Tenders training will be held on April 5. Several people have already expressed an interest in attending. Mr. Fedorchak promised that several people from his staff will attend. Mrs. D’Alessio said that the LMT Tree Tenders are willing to help with the event.

An open space presentation will most likely be scheduled for May.

Mr. Benedetto gave Mr. Bray the name of a contractor who would like to do a lecture on energy efficiency in LMT. There was agreement that he be given 15 minutes at an EAC meeting to provide more information.

**Birdtown Update** – Mr. Bray reported that Susan Harrison, who is on the LMT’s Birdtown Committee, has given four lectures.

**Open Discussion** –

Environmental Stewardship Award – The Stewardship Award will be presented to the LMT Farmers Market, along with a \$500 check, at the first BOS meeting in February. Mr. Bray will coordinate getting the plaque and the check.

May EAC Conference, Reading, Pa. – Mrs. D’Alessio spoke about the conference and said she would be going.

Fourteenth Annual Land Ethics Symposium, Sponsored by Bowmans Hill Wildflower Preserve – Mr. Bray asked anyone interested in attending to contact him.

Rain Barrels – Mr. Bortman reported that Falls Township bought rain barrels and is selling them at cost. They are \$57 each, with a minimum order of 15. The same company makes compost bins for \$47, with a minimum of 25. It was agreed that it would be a good idea for LMT to offer rain barrels and compost bins for sale to their residents. The details will be discussed at the next EAC meeting.

Year End Review – Mr. Bray will have the Review completed by the end of the week and will forward it to the EAC.

With no further business to discuss, the January 8, 2014 meeting of the Environmental Advisory Council was adjourned. The next EAC meeting will be held on February 12, 2014 at 7:00PM, in the LMT municipal building.

Respectfully Submitted,

James J. Bray, Chairman

