

January 31,2014

To: LMT Board of Supervisors
From: LMT EAC
Subject: 2013 Year End Review

The EAC in LMT is well aware of the important role it plays in enhancing the quality of life for all the citizens of our town. Accordingly, it is deemed important to us to prepare a Year End Review for the citizens and leaders of our community so that they may more properly assess our worth. We will also discuss briefly the projects we intend to pursue in 2014.

Sound environmental practices equate to a sound economic policy. We feel strongly that our efforts have not only resulted in LMT becoming a standout environmental community but, in so doing, we have saved our citizens substantial tax dollars by becoming better stewards of our land.

The report is as follows:

- 1) Drainage Basin Naturalization Program – In LMT, there are approximately 150 open space and drainage basin areas maintained by the municipality. In 2009 the EAC initiated a reduced mowing program that reduced significantly the cost to maintain those areas. Since that time, additional basins and open space areas have been added each year resulting in recurring tax payer savings of over \$60,000 per year. The new regimen entails cutting the basins and open space areas in the program only once per season while cutting the fringe on a regular basis. The environmental results have also been dramatic: natural vegetation has been restored, more birds have been observed, water quality has no doubt improved and since meadows absorb much more water than grass, flood control will be improved.
- 2) Cool Cities Buy Local, Buy Green Campaign – Cool Cities is a national plan formulated by the Sierra Club and embraced by LMT that lists positive steps communities can take to become more environmentally sustainable. The EAC is moving forward with a Buy Local Buy Green project that will promote local businesses and highlight any of their “green” aspects. Accordingly, letters of interest will be sent out in early 2014 to better gauge the interest of the business community with respect to the goals of this project.
- 3) Open Space Acquisition – After letters of interest have been sent to selected owners the LMT EAC has checked out over 30 properties whose owners have indicated an interest in LMT’s Open Space Program. Based on these site visits and meetings with owners the EAC has compiled a recommendation list that we will be presenting to the BOS in early 2014.
- 4) Recycling – In May, approximately 40 letters were hand delivered to office tenants at the Lower Makefield Corporate Center’s Main and South Campuses and the 777 Township Line Road Office Building. The letter encouraged the offices to start a recycling program, described how to set up such a program and listed the materials that can be recycled. The EAC also continued to work

with LMT's Parks and Recreation Department to improve recycling at large sports tournaments that take place in LMT such as YMS's Mother's Day Girls Soccer Tournament and Columbus Day Boys Soccer Tournament and PAA's Father's Day Softball Tournament. In November, the EAC ordered 50 portable recycling containers which will be used at various events and gatherings in the Township.

- 5) Audubon Bird Town Program - The EAC initiated Bird Town Program details how homeowners, through judicious native plantings, can enhance the environmental value of their property and draw significantly more birds to observe as well. To abet this process, Bird town Coordinators Laura Brandt, Susan Harrison and Connie Fairchild have given several lectures throughout the area to enlist new members in the program.
- 6) Outreach Presentations - Outreach is an important EAC goal. As an acknowledged environmental leader, we feel an obligation to share our successful initiatives with other communities. And, in so doing, we learn from them as well. In 2013 EAC representatives spoke at the following venues:
 - a. April 15, 16, 2013 – Recycling and composting presentation at the Cambridge School in Pennington, New Jersey. Six sessions were held for Grades 1 through 8 over a two day period.
 - b. May 19, 2013 – Native Plan Ordinance presentation to Audubon PA at the Peace Valley Nature Center.
 - c. June 5, 2013 – LMT Initiatives presentation to the Warrington Township EAC.
 - d. June 25, 2013 – EAC presentation highlighting LMT's Stormwater Management Ordinance given at Pennsbury Manor for the Silver lake Nature Center program entitled "Ordinances and Policies for Stormwater Management Success."
 - e. June 26, 2013 – Memorial Park Basin Tour presentation to DCNR and Silver Lake Nature Centermembers.
 - f. Bird Town Lectures –
 - i. August 12, 2013 – Trevoise Horticultural Society
 - ii. September 9, 2013 – Churchville Nature Center – Buxmont Organic Garden Club
 - iii. September 17, 2013 – Penn State Extension – public lecture
 - iv. September 19, 2013 – Penn State Extension – new Master Gardeners
 - v. September 21, 2013 – Harvest Day - Shady Brook Farm – public lecture
 - vi. October 8, 2013 – Niagara Bank of Springhouse , Pa. – Montgomery Garden Club
 - vii. October 30, 2013 – LMT Masonic Hall – Martha Washington Garden Club
- 7) Land Use Reviews – As per our role as a land use review board, the EAC submitted detailed analyses on the following applications:
 - a. LMT FEMA property _ – April 22, 2013
 - b. Moon Nursery – sketch plan – June 14, 2013
 - c. Floral Vale Improvements – July 22, 2013
 - d. St. Ignatius Preliminary Plan – August 16, 2013
 - e. Scammels Corner Final Plan – September 5, 2013
 - f. Manor Care Preliminary Plan – October 10, 2013

8. Conference Attendance – Finding new concepts and bringing them back to LMT is a primary EAC goal. Accordingly, EAC members are encouraged to attend relevant seminars and lectures and share this knowledge with other EAC members and the community as well. The following list details some of these presentations attended by EAC personnel in 2013.

- a. February 12, 2013 – Ash Borer Seminar – PA Horticultural Society – Montgomery County Administration Building
- b. February 21, 2013 – Bowmans Hill Land Ethics Symposium
- c. April 10, 2013 – EPA Stormwater Mgt. Conference – Doylestown Twp Admin Bldg
- d. May 8, 2013 – Basin Grant Presentation by Bucks county Conservation District and Princeton Hydro
- e. September 12, 19 & 26, 2013 – Tree Tender Certification – sponsored by PA Horticultural Society

9 Basin Grant Project – LMT, in its role as a Basin Naturalization Leader, has obtained an approximately \$200,000 State-Federal grant to naturalize and rehabilitate four basins in the Northern area of the Township. The EAC has made site visits to the proposed basins with Bucks County Conservation District Coordinator, Meghan Rogalus, and has made several recommendations that have been adapted in the plan.

10 Pervious Pavement Ordinance – EAC member, Alan Dresser, has been appointed Project Leader for the Pervious Pavement Ordinance. This innovative program allows partial pervious credit to commercial developments if they employ some of the new pervious pavement technologies. And, since this results in less impervious surface, it is a positive flood control project as it allows more water to be absorbed in the ground rather than end up in our streams and creeks via overland sheet flow. This proposal was presented to the LMT Planning Commission on June 10, 2013 and their recommendations were adopted into the ordinance. In late 2013, the Draft Ordinance was given to LMT attorneys who will be responsible for putting the proposed ordinance into appropriate legal language.

11. Environmental Lecture Series – On November 16, 2013, noted bird expert Scott Weidensaul gave a lecture on Bird Migration to a packed house (117 attendees) at the LMT Administration Building. Scott, a noted author, also stayed after the presentation to sign books for interested parties. The response of individuals attending the lecture was incredibly positive and this fact was communicated to the LMT BOS who allots the EAC a yearly budget that enables them to hold notable events like this.

12. Environmental Stewardship Award – Each year the EAC presents a Stewardship Award, along with a \$500 stipend, to the individual, group or business that has been involved in LMT project(s) that have promoted environmental sustainability. The winner in 2013 was Kim Wodzanowski, a PHS Senior who set up a recycling program at the various school sporting events held throughout the year. And, the true worth of this project is evidenced by the fact that an organization has been formed by Kim that will continue this work after she leaves the school.

13. Publicity and Awards – The EAC was publicly recognized in a Yardley Voice article that highlighted the purpose of our Committee as well as detailing some of our past year highlights. On July 8, 2013, LMTs innovative Native Plant Ordinance, an EAC project was highlighted in a front page article in the Philadelphia Inquirer. The write-up, complete with photos, detailed the benefits, in this case to a commercial entity (the Floral Vale Building) that can accrue through the judicious use of native plants. As a result of this favorable press the EAC has received several speaker requests to discuss benefits associated to this innovative ordinance.

The following is a list of projects that the EAC intends to pursue in 2014:

- 1) Drainage Basin Naturalization – Additional open space areas and basins will continue to be added to this very successful program.
- 2) Buy Local Buy Green – We will continue to move forward with the Cool Cities project that will result in a business directory for the citizens of LMT.
- 3) Recycling – The EAC will continue to monitor the LMT recycling program to ensure we are receiving all appropriate money from the PA state funding sources. We have also received a request from the Cambridge School in Pennington, NJ to repeat the very successful recycling and composting program that was given by EAC personnel last year. It is also planned to hold another Electronic Waste Recycling Program in Collaboration with the Leck Organization. A similar event was a huge success in 2012.
- 4) Environmental Lecture Series – Proposed topics this year include “The Worth of Open Space” and a seminar entitled “Tree Care 101” that has been designed for us and will be given by the well-noted PA Horticultural Society. This three hour seminar will focus on everything you need to know to plant and take care of trees. Our target audience will be municipal employees as well as interested homeowners.
- 5) Open Space Program – With a more positive economic climate in evidence the EAC will work diligently to promote more open space acquisition through the Township. After the remainder of the allotted county money has been spent, the EAC will focus on larger acquisitions that can be purchased with the 15 million dollar bond referendum approved overwhelmingly by LMT citizens in 2008 that, to date, has not been used.
- 6) Expand Joint Ventures – In the past, we have worked together with Bowman’s Hill Wildflower Preserve and our own Economic Development Commission to hold topical environmental events. Based on the past success of these events, we intend to continue that practice.
- 7) Update Tree Ordinance – To comply with a ruling in the Solebury township court case, the wording regarding replacement trees in LMT’s ordinance must be modified. We would like to take this opportunity to add appropriate verbiage to set up a “Tree Bank” in LMT that would enhance tree coverage throughout the town.
- 8) Historic Tree Preservation Ordinance – Currently, LMT is home to many incredibly old and large trees that fall into an “historic” tree category. In 2014, 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.

- 9) LMT Community Center – A site has been chosen for the building of a community center in LMT. 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 before and when the building process commences.

The year 2013 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, increased recycling efforts and open space acquisitions 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

Cc: T. Fedorchak, LMT Manager
LMT EAC
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N. Frick, LMT ZIP Director
J. Gartan, LMT Attorney
V. Torbert, CTC Chairperson
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