

January 31, 2016

To: LMT Board of Supervisors
From: LMT EAC
Subject: 2015 Year End Review

The EAC in LMT plays an important role 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 the value we add to the quality of life in LMT. We will also discuss briefly the projects we intend to pursue in 2015.

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.

This Year End Review 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 – In LMT, there are approximately 150 open space and drainage basin areas in 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. However, in the Fall of 2015 EAC members noted that many of the basins that were suppose to remain unmowed were being mowed regularly. In 2016, the EAC will pursue this matter with the new Public Works Director and correct the situation.
2. Open Space Acquisition - In 2015, the LMT did not acquire any of the Open Space properties that were recommended by the EAC. As a proactive council, however, we will continue identify and recommend additional properties in 2016 for inclusion in LMT's Open Space program. The EAC was successful in helping stop an unwise plan to use all \$780,000 of the County open space funds owed to LMT for a conservation easement on a portion of Patterson Farm. The conservation easement could be obtained for a fraction of that cost. The \$780,000 would have likely gone into the general fund, not for additional open space for LMT as the County intended.

3. Recycling – 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 Mothers’ Day Girls’ Soccer Tournament, the Columbus Day Boys’ Soccer Tournament and PAA’s Fathers’ Day Softball Tournament. In Oct., \$1,500 from the EAC budget was donated to the LMT Parks and Recreation Dept. for the purchase of recycling containers for the parks.
4. ELCON Liquid Hazardous Waste Treatment Facility - Elcon Recycling Services has proposed the construction and operation of a liquid hazardous waste facility in Falls Township, PA. It will be approximately 5 miles from LMT. In 2015, EAC members attended several meetings and hearings concerning the permitting of this facility. Elcon was granted a Phase I permit for the facility by PADEP in Nov. 2015. The facility will be asking for the much more significant Phase 2 permit in 2016. EAC will monitor Elcon’s permit activity and review the Phase 2 application as well as the air permit application when submitted to PADEP. Afterwards, we will make recommendations to the Supervisors concerning the proposed facility.
5. Possible Bamboo Control Ordinance – The EAC was asked by the BOS to investigate the possibility of passing an ordinance for the control of invasive “running” bamboo in LMT. At the Feb. 2 BOS meeting, the EAC presented the results of their investigation and the recommendation to pass an ordinance restricting “running” type bamboo in our municipality. The BOS asked residents to attend the Feb. 11 EAC meeting to discuss the issue, 7 residents were present. Comments were received, and the EAC continues to recommend an ordinance. The BOS took no action in 2015.
6. Outreach Presentations – Outreach is an important EAC goal. As an acknowledged environment leader, we feel an obligation to share our successful initiatives with other communities. And, in so doing, we learn from them as well. In 2014, EAC representatives spoke at the following venues:
 - a. February 9 – EAC meeting specific for obtaining input from public on bamboo and its control.
 - b. May 30, 2015 – “Information on Solar Energy” EAC presentation – LMT Building
 - c. June 13, 2015 – The EAC had an information table at the Art on the Farm event at Patterson Farm.
 - d. September 7, 2015 – EAC had an information table at the LMT Community Day .
7. Tree Plaque – On June 13 at the Art at the Farm event at Patterson Farm, a tree plaque designed and paid for by the EAC was unveiled. The tree plaque acknowledged that one of the trees in the backyard of the Janney/Brown house was the largest cucumber magnolia tree in PA.
8. Citizens Climate Lobby Carbon Fee and Dividend Proposal - Tom Wells introduced the EAC to the Citizens Climate Lobby, an organization working to get approval on a legislative proposal for a “Carbon Fee-and-Dividend ”. It is a market based solution to reducing CO2, the fee would be placed on the producer of carbon. The money collected would be divided equally and paid to

every adult in the United States (est. of \$45 – \$50 per month) and would balance out the increased cost of oil.

9. Land Use Reviews – As per our important role as a land use review board, the EAC, after site visits and thorough developer plan reviews, submitted detailed analyses on the following applications:
 - a. Dogwood Drive Subdivision –November 12, 2015
 - b. Erin Development’s Dobry Road 80 Unit Housing Dev. – November 20, 2015
 - c. Makefield Glenn (DeLorenzo’s Pizza) at Edgewood Village – December 9, 2015
 - d. Elm and Maplewood 2 Home Development – Attended Zoning Board meeting to make certain the wetland and stream buffers were maintained.
 - e. LMT Community Center – Met with Supervisor Tyler in early March to discuss LEED certification of Community Center.

10. Environmental Assistance - As befitting our role of environmental stewards, the EAC has assisted LMT residents, as per their requests, with advice in the following areas:
 - Tanglewood Tree and Vine Issue – Assisted the residents in addressing their problems with vines on their trees.

11. 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 2014:
 - February 23, 2015 – Watershed Alliance of Southeastern PA Seminar “Public Involvement in PA MS4 Permit Programs”

The following is a list of projects that the EAC intends to pursue in 2016:

- 1) Drainage Basin Naturalization – EAC will work with the new Public Works Director to ensure the basins designated a natural (unmowed) are not in fact mowed by Township personnel.
- 2) Recycling – The EAC will continue to monitor the LMT recycling program to ensure we are receiving all appropriate monies from the PA state funding sources. In addition, we will continue to work with our Park and Recreation Department, as well as with area businesses, to ensure that our recycling program continues to expand.
- 3) Environmental Lecture Series – Proposed topics to be determined.
- 4) Open Space Program – With a more positive economic and political climate in evidence, the EAC will work diligently to promote more open space acquisitions throughout the Township. After the remainder of the allotted County money has been spent, the EAC will focus on other 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.
- 5) Expand Joint Ventures – In the past, we have worked together with Bowman’s Hill Wildflower Preserve, the Economic Development Commission, Bird Town and LMT Tree Tenders to hold

topical environmental events. Based on the past success of these events, we intend to continue that practice.

- 6) Carbon Fee and Dividend Proposal – The EAC will have a vote in 2016 on whether to endorse this Citizen’s Climate Lobby proposal.
- 7) 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 and native plant expertise before and when the building process commences.
- 8) Bamboo Ordinance – The EAC still believes the Township would benefit by having an ordinance for the control of invasive “running” bamboo . The EAC will continue to recommend passage of this ordinance by the BOS in 2016.

The year 2015 was a somewhat frustrating year 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 our new Tree Bank Ordinance 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

Alan Dresser , Chair - 2015

Mark Bortman, Vice Chair

Paul Roden, Member

Matthew Conley, member

Michael Sullivan, member

Jim Bray, alternate member

Cc: T. Fedorchak, LMT Manager
LMT EAC

LMT Planning Commission
LMT ZIP Director