

Lower Makefield Township  
Environmental Advisory Council

March 8, 2017

Meeting Minutes

Present: Mark Bortman, Co-Chairman  
Peter Solor, Co-Chairman  
Dan Grenier  
Lisa Kamp  
Paul Roden  
Soumya Dharmavaram  
Alan Dresser  
John Lewis, BOS Liaison

The March 8, 2017 meeting of the Environmental Advisory Council was called to order at 7:00pm. Soumya Dharmavaram was welcomed as an official member.

Approval of Feb. 8, 2017 EAC Minutes - The February minutes were approved unanimously, with changes.

Electronics Recycling Event - The next electronics recycling event will be held on May 6, at site to be determined. Mark Bortman said that he is in discussion with the Pennsbury School District about using the High School or one of the middle schools, Charles Boehm in particular. Mr. Bortman will do the flyer. Honor Roll students, who assisted with the October event, will be asked to help again. Mr. Solor suggested that we use the event as an opportunity to hand out flyers on upcoming EAC events.

Sustainable PA Community Certification- The question was raised as to whether the EAC should explore this certification. Mr. Solor reported on a list of the certification programs that are relevant.

**Cool Cities**, which is no expired, but the LMT was a part of and recognized for its conservation and sustainable environmental efforts in the past. Many of the carbon foot print reduction, sustainability elements have gone dormant but could be revived for future planning policy and programs. They could be reinvigorated with new technology, like GPS, better measurements and methodologies and possible funding from outside, non-governmental and governmental sources.

**Sustainable PA** This is a program with multiple certification levels based in Pennsylvania. This program is administered by the PA Department of Community and Economic Development. It has multiple levels of certification with a 300 point system that must be applied for. Obtaining these various levels of certification gives special consideration for municipalities when applying for other grant programs from state agencies for funding. These certifications verify that the business operations and practices are

efficient, effective and environmentally sustainable. This assures the state government that any new funding for a program, construction or project will be conducted in a wise and proper manner without waste, fraud or abuse. Already over 60 PA municipalities are certified. Although there is no application fee, some research and data gathering is involved. Peter Solar will contact Terry Fedorcheck to see what data is needed to submit an application.

**LEED for Cities/Communities** – This is a pilot program which just started in December 2016. It differs from the LEED for new home and commercial construction which is based on single buildings or campuses and builds on LEED for Neighborhoods. It is tied to a global rating system and participation in the program would allow for more immediate access to strategies from other locations. An interactive database is a prime component of this program and allows for a more immediate public facing of the project. The goals and strategies appear similar to the previous ‘Cool Cities’ program in additions to the LEED Systems categories broken down by Energy, Water, Waste, Transportation, and Human Experience.

LMT would be listed as a ‘Community’ in this program, and pricing given LMT’s size, the registration fee would be \$5,000, precertification of \$5,000 and certification of \$18,000. Precertification would be a more customized version of what was seen in Sustainable PA above with professional input after entry of current township statistics as to where goals could be set and policies to achieve them.

**Bluezones** – This is a program run by Healthways, and aimed at communities is more health oriented in its results, but many of the policies that would be implemented are similar in result to those above. An example of this would be their program goal of increasing interconnectivity which would involve more sidewalks, bike paths, and zoning similar to Edgewood Village. The program would provide guidance and planning in interaction with the Township, both at the government and nongovernmental levels. There are multiple communities, mostly on the West coast, in this program. There are costs involved, but so far we have been not been able to determine what those costs and fees will be.

**Tools-** There are items that could be adopted by the township that already exist, that would implement components of the above. A good example of this is the adoption of the IGCC building code overlay which expressly relates to points in the Sustainable PA Certification and which would directly relate to goals within LEED for Communities and the Cool Cities blueprint. There is also model legislation that relates to components of all four items above. Other certifications could also be supportive of the above such as the Tree City Program from the Arbor Day Foundation.

**Changes to Tree Ordinance** – Changes and comments to the Tree Ordinance for new construction for Lower Makefield Township. Developers who cut down trees for housing, commercial and business center development are not always replacing trees or paying for trees in the tree bank. This is not always occurring or the BOS of LMT has accepted less money for lost trees from projects. There is lax enforcement of the tree ordinance. This issue will continue to be discussed and ways to rectify it will be developed.

**Penn East Pipeline** – There was a meeting of the DRBC, the Delaware River Basin Commission where the issue of the route of the Penn East Pipeline was discussed and comments made by residents from PA, NJ NY and Delaware. The issue of fracking was also raised because on page 31 of their latest report, the members of the DRBC are continuing to develop guidelines to regulate the fracking of the Delaware River Basin Watershed, which for the last 7 years there has been a moratorium on any new permits to

drill and frack wells. Since this moratorium, New York State has issued a ban on fracking, which includes the Delaware River Basin Watershed. This is a dilemma for the DRBC. NY and Delaware are against fracking with a ban for all of New York State. PA's Governor Wolf is supportive of a moratorium in the Delaware River Basin for now, but think we can frack for natural gas with environmental safeguards and protections. Governor Wolf has said publically that Governor Cuomo's decision to ban fracking in NY was "unfortunate." The fifth member of the DRBC, President Trump is in favor of fracking and through his representative to the DRBC, the Army Corp of Engineers, will most probably follow this pro-fracking policy.

#### Open Space Activity –

Riverview Bible Fellowship Church – There was discussion of the Church plan to buy property from the Township to use for additional parking. There is significant negative reaction to this proposal, voiced at the BOS meetings and on-line.

Elm Avenue – The Township has agreed to accept a donation of land on Elm Avenue.

#### Land Use Reviews –

Community Center – Alan Dresser reported that he received copies of the building plans for the new community center after filing a Freedom of Information request. It appears that the construction plans do not follow the LMT Green Building Zoning Code Ordinance and it not following the guidelines for LEED for green buildings.

The EAC will ask about this directly to put this question on the agenda of the next meeting of the BOS of LMT or bring it up during the public comment section.

Snipes Football Fields – It was discussed that maybe these fields could be located on land by the Garden of Reflection instead. The impact on water run off from the parking area, the loss trees, traffic increase and cost increase from additional maintenance required to maintain them, once the fields are built was raised.

Zoning Board and Planning Board- It was agreed that a member of the EAC should attend the Zoning and Planning Board meetings of LMT whenever possible. We will ask at every future meeting of the EAC to see that we have at least one member of the EAC at each of their meetings. We will also invite and encourage both the Zoning Board and the Planning Board to have a representative attend our EAC meetings as well to facilitate better coordination of our efforts and responsibilities. The EAC members will attend on a schedule based alphabetically by name.

#### Odds and Ends –

Earth Day Grocery Store Initiative - Ms. Kamp confirmed that the three local grocery stores have displayed an interest in partnering with the EAC. Lisa Kamp shared a proposed flyer to be posted at the grocery stores and in the EAC literature rack in the LMT Township Building. Earth Day is April 29, 2017 with marches and rallies in both Washington, DC and in the Philadelphia metropolitan areas. There is also a Scientist March for Climate Change on April 22, 2017 in both Washington, D.C. and Bucks County.

Elcon Hazardous Waste Facility – Elcon's Phase 2 application was submitted to PADEP on February 20. There is a 90 public comment period after the permit has been determined to be administratively

complete by the PA DEP. Bordentown, NJ has hired former Governor Peter Florio to represent them in fighting the permit and construction of the ELCON “thermal oxidation” chemical waste treatment plant.

Naturalized Basins – Continued monitoring and discussion with the new Director of Public Works of LMT will take place to assure that our basin naturalization project and avoid complete mowing of the basins.

Planning Commission - There was discussion of a past EAC practice of liaising with the Planning Commission by sending a representative to each others’ meetings. Mr. Solor will discuss with the Planning Commission members at an upcoming meeting.

Sustainability Forum May 5<sup>th</sup> Philadelphia Navy Shipyard

EAC State Wide Conference May 5<sup>th</sup>, Lancaster, PA Double Tree Resort and Conference Center. 5 afternoon workshops for EAC members and Keynote address in the morning. Contact the PA Land Trust Association, 119 Pine Street, Harrisburg, PA 17101 \$45.00

With no further business to discuss, the March 8, 2017 meeting of the Environmental Advisory Council was adjourned at 9:30PM. The next meeting of the EAC will be held on March 8, 2017, at 7PM in the LMT Municipal Building.

Respectfully Submitted

Paul Roden, member