

Lower Makefield Township
Environmental Advisory Council

May 10, 2017

Meeting Minutes

Present: Mark Bortman, Alan Dresser, and Peter Solor, (Co- Chairmen)
Soumya Dharmavaram, Dan Grenier, Lisa Kamp, Paul Roden

Public: Barbara Baus, two neighbors to the Snipes Athletic Fields

Approval of April 12, 2017 Minutes – The April 12 minutes were approved unanimously, with changes.

Electronics Recycling Day May 6, 2017. People dropped off their used electronic devices by entering the road from William Penn Middle School and then proceeded to the parking lot at Charles Boehm Middle School where there were two lines.

Sustainability Forum Naval Shipyard May 6, 2017 Soumya Dharmavaram reported on her attendance at the Sustainability Forum in Philadelphia on May 6th. 2017.

EAC Network Meeting May 6, 2017, Lancaster, PA Paul Roden attended the statewide EAC Network Meeting in Lancaster, PA May 6th, 2017. Presentations were made on “Return on the Environment,” by Lehigh County EAC’s which monetizes the costs and savings from protecting, maintaining and preserving various practices that impact the environment in municipalities and regions. There was a PowerPoint Presentation that has been forwarded to members of the LMT EAC. The second presentation was from the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission, which is researching citizen involvement on environmental issues and best practices of sustainability. It used people’s cell phones to survey the audience via text messages to gather data and opinions of audience members in attendance. They are particularly interested in water use, waste water, storm water, land use planning and open space preservation in their ongoing research projects.

Basin Naturalization and Mowing Plan

Discussion ensued about the mowing plan. Many of the detention basins in the Basin Naturalization Plan have been mowed frequently the last two years. There is a continued need to educate the LMT public works employees and the residents about the Basin Naturalization Plan in how this saves the LMT Township taxpayers money and preserves the environment, while slowing the release of storm water run off. Efforts to educate residents near the catchment basins as well as everyone in LMT were discussed. Paul Roden and Soumya Dharmavaram will write an article for a future issue of the EAC Newsletter on this topic. Flyers and signs at the water catchment basins explaining the Basin Naturalization Project will be developed by the LMT EAC and another meeting with Greg Hucklebridge will be scheduled.

Open Space Activity

Open Space Plan Update – The history of Preserving Open Space in LMT was discussed. A new inventory of potential properties to be acquired is needed. Alan Dresser and Dan Grenier will continue to research and review potential recommendations as given information on the software LMT has available for updating the list of open space properties in the Township by Mr. Majewski. After discussion, it was agreed that the first step is to update Table 7 of the 2009 report identifying all preserved open space properties in LMT. The 2009 plan details a lot of information about remaining properties and this should prove helpful when the plan is updated, though this list also needs updating.

Land Use Reviews

Community Center – Mr. Solor reported that the original documents were supposed to reach a Silver certification and, for some reason, this did not happen. He said that it appears that there was ever a vote to remove the Silver designation. There was no response on who changed the plans for the construction and why the architect's plans did not follow the LMT Green Building Code and follow the specifications for LEED Silver (but not pay for the certification). The EAC goal is to help get the project to Silver LEED. The BOS plans to schedule a meeting with all parties. Mr. Solor will contact Mr. Lewis to discuss.

Snipes Football Fields/Memorial Park - There was lengthy discussion of the Snipes and Memorial Park projects, with concerns being expressed by EAC members. Two neighbors to the proposed athletic fields attended the meeting to express their concern about the impact of the project on the neighbors.

With no further business to discuss, the May 10 meeting of the Environmental Advisory Council was adjourned at 10:00pm. The next meeting of the EAC will be held on June 14, 2017, at 7pm in the LMT Municipal Building.

Respectfully Submitted, Paul Roden