

Lower Makefield Township  
Environmental Advisory Council

June 14, 2017

Meeting Minutes

Present: Alan Dresser and Peter Solor, Co-Chairmen, Jim Bray, Soumya Dharmavaram, Lisa Kamp, Paul Roden, Dan Grenier (via telephone) and John Lewis, BOS Liaison

Also in attendance were Bill Setzer, Morrisville Borough EAC, Lauren Edelstein of KHALM, and Barb Baus, LMT Resident

**Approval of May 10, 2017 Minutes** – The May minutes were approved, with changes.

**EAC Lecture Series** – In an effort to resurrect the EAC lecture series, it was agreed that the EAC should engage one of the more popular speakers from the past for this first lecture of the 2017-2018 season. Mrs. Edelstein will follow up. The lecture will be scheduled for late September/early October.

**Waiver LEED Silver for the Community Center** – The BOS waived the LEED Silver requirement for the Community Center. The EAC is not in favor of this waiver. In this case, as in many other cases of waivers, lessening of the effectiveness of an ordinance is the result. The BOS also recently voted to proceed with advertising a change in the Green Building Ordinance to reduce the green building requirements to LEED certified instead of LEED silver.

**Basin Naturalization and Mowing Plan** – Mr. Dresser reported on his meeting with the new LMT Director of Public Works. After Mr. Dresser brought Mr. Huckelbridge up to speed on the Basin Naturalization project, Mr. Huckelbridge asked Mr. Dresser to identify six or so basins that had originally been part of the program, but have since been mowed. These basins will be added back into the naturalization program. The EAC members wondered why LMT wouldn't just resume naturalizing all of the basins that were originally part of the program.

There was discussion of the need for more education on the benefits of naturalizing the basins. Mr. Setzer suggested getting the Birdtown group involved in touting the benefits and Mr. Lewis suggested we get word out on the Facebook page. In a discussion, it was agreed that the definition of Naturalization in this case is letting the interior grow while cutting the edges. It was noted that it might be helpful to add wildflower seeds to the grass to increase the diversity. Care should be taken to ensure that native wildflower mixes appropriate to drainage basin conditions be used for this effort (store bought upland wildflower mixes may not survive and invasive species should not be introduced).

Mr. Grenier mentioned that a Park and Recreation Board member recently made comments during the special BOS meeting regarding the Smipes Tract that were against the basin naturalization program. A presentation to the Park and Recreation Board may be necessary to educate members on the benefits of basin naturalization as the P&R Board plays a major role in the management, planning and design of parks and open space throughout the Township. Current and future sotrmwater basins are candidates for the basin naturalization program in the future.

### **Open Space –**

**Five Miles Woods** – Mr. Dresser went to a Falls Township meeting to discuss forming a corridor along Falls Township land to join Five Miles Wood and the Sandy Guzikowski Farm.

**Open Space Money** – Mr. Lewis told the EAC to work under the assumption that there will be an additional \$300,000 for open space. Mr. Bray will work to find the appropriate properties. Mr. Dresser suggested that it might be a good idea for all the other EACs in the area to ask their supervisors to pass resolutions requesting the County to propose another bond issue.

### **Land Use Reviews –**

**Snipes Athletics Fields-** Mr. Grenier presented the EAC comments at a recent BOS meeting. He indicated that, though there was no interest shown in modifying the intersection, some positive changes are being made., including the addition of a natural path along the perimeter of the site, an increase in the number of trees planted along the perimeter of the site near Dolington and Quarry Hill Roads, and additional infiltration trenches. Mr. Majewski, Boucher and James, and Carroll Engineers have reviewed the plan. The BOS will probably be voting on going out for bids in June.

**Dogwood Drive** – This plan consists of 5 homes, 15 acres and large trees and calls for a conservation easement. It will be presented to the Planning Commission on July 10. Many trees will be cut down, resulting in a large contribution to the LMT tree bank.

**Earth Day Grocery Store Plastic Bag Initiative** – The grocery stores have not been responsive to the plastic bag project but we will continue to work with them. There were additional suggestions on ways that residents could be educated about the need to replace plastic bags with cloth bags. It was also agreed that we will work with the grocery stores to publicize the steps they are taking to “green” their business.

**Sustainable PA Certification** - Mrs. Dharmavaram and Mr. Solor are working on this project and will have a proposal to bring before the BOS at a later date.

**Community Environmental Award** - There was agreement that the EAC should nominate the Pennsbury High School Honor Society for the award for their two years of volunteering at LMT’s electronic recycling events. It was suggested that the grocery stores also receive an award.

**LMT’S MS4** – Ms. Patel and Mr. Grenier want to review the plan but have not heard back from the Township’s Engineer on when the plan will be completed. They will wait for the application to be available.

### **Odds and Ends –**

**Increasing Number of Alternate Members** – This will be shelved until after the first of the year.

**Elcon Phase 2 Application** - PADEP determined the Elcon Phase 2 application was incomplete. Most issues that need to be addressed by Elcon are relatively minor.

**Fall Recycling Event** – Mr. Dresser will ask Mr. Bortman if he would like to do a Fall electronics recycling event.

Morrisville Municipal Authority – The MMA not only provides water for some homes in LMT, their sewage treatment plant handles almost all sewage generated in LMT. The sewage plant is old and has become obsolete. Building a new plant or rehabbed the existing plant will have financial implications for LMT. A representative from MMA will come to our next meeting to discuss the issue.

Newsletter – Mrs. Dharmavaram presented a list of topics she had compiled, which could be used to create a periodic newsletter. She and Mr. Roden will meet to discuss.

With no further business to discuss, the June 14 meeting of the EAC was adjourned at 9:10PM. The next meeting of the EAC will be held on July 12, at 7:00PM, in the LMT Municipal Building.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alan Dresser and Peter Solor, Co-Chairmen