

Lower Makefield Township
Environmental Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

January 10, 2018

Present: Jim Bray; Soumya Dharmavaram; Alan Dresser, Co-Chair; Dan Grenier, BOS Liaison; Lisa Kamp; Paul Roden; Peter Solor, Co-Chair

Also in attendance were Lisa Baxter, representing Protecting Our Water and Air (POWA), and Tom Alvarez, LMT Resident

The January 2018 meeting of the EAC was called to order by Mr. Solor. The first order of business was to approve the December 13, 2017 EAC meeting minutes, which were unanimously approved with changes.

Fracking Waste and DRBC – Mr. Roden and Ms. Baxter are both actively working against fracking and related activities in the Delaware River Basin Watershed. They presented draft documents for EAC review, including a resolution for the LMT BOS to sign and a cover letter. Mr. Grenier supplied some information on the science behind fracking. After reviewing and discussing the issues and documents at length, agreement was reached as follows:

- Mr. Grenier requested that no resolution be given to the BOS until the Board has full membership
- Rather than a lengthy resolution and cover letter, Mr. Grenier suggested that the EAC draft a short resolution, that is specifically reflective of the EAC's position as an advisory body, relative to the current DRBC(Delaware River Basin Commission) discussion to the next meeting to potentially forward to the BOS to sign. Mr. Roden agreed to bring a more focused resolution to the next meeting.

It was noted that the DRBC has added two public hearings, one by telephone and the other in person, to the ones that have already been held and that the deadline has been pushed forward to March.

Lecture Series – Mrs. Dharmavaram reported that she had been successful in contacting LMT's PECO Outreach Coordinator, who expressed a willingness to do a lecture in LMT some time in February. Mrs. Dharmavaram asked Mr. Grenier if he thinks it would be possible for the EAC to get energy usage data for the LMT Township Building. Mr. Grenier will look into it.

Mrs. Bray provided some information about a recent lecture given at Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve by Nancy Lawson, author of The Humane Gardener. She recommended that Ms. Lawson be invited to give the lecture as part of the LMT EAC lecture series. Mr. Dresser will check with Monica Tierney on availability of the room in the new Community Center for the PECO lecture in February and Nancy Lawson's in April. It was agreed that there will be one additional 2018 lecture, in the Fall.

There were suggestions made regarding possible speakers for the Fall lecture.

Basin Naturalization Program – Mr. Grenier reported that the list of basins and related information is in PDF format and needs to be put on a spreadsheet that will allow others to make changes as necessary. Mr. Grenier will discuss with Mr. Hucklebridge.

Mr. Solor has not heard back about purchasing the educational signs the EAC wants to install on the sites of select basins. There followed a discussion about whether there would be value in offering training classes to the Public Work employees. It was agreed that the idea should be pursued.

It was agreed that the EAC should resume their practice of offering tours of LMT's basins to EAC members and LMT staff. One will be planned for early March.

Solar Panel Grant – At the January 17 meeting, the BOS will be discussing, and voting on, whether the Township should apply for a matching grant for solar panels. The new Community Center and the Township Building are considered possible locations.

2018 EAC Initiatives – Mr. Dresser will be meeting with Jim Majewski about possible changes to Township ordinances. He will forward his list of suggested changes to EAC members before the meeting.

Mr. Grenier spoke about how important it is for Township committees to know what the other committees are doing. To this end, he suggested that it would be most effective to have each committee appoint a representative and that the representatives meet once a month.

LMT's MS4 – Mr. Grenier directed Mr. Fedorchak to meet with Boucher and James to get a status on a data dump regarding projects, applications, all active land use plans, etc. Mr. Fedorchak and Mr. Majewski will be meeting to discuss this week.

Mr. Grenier replied to a question about why Remington Vernick had been appointed as Township Engineer by the BOS in 2018. He said that the firm is doing projects with other local municipalities, which should make it easier for them to get on board with LMT projects and that issues that occurred many years in the past should not be considered reflective of current practice.

Late Winter/Spring 2018 Newsletter – Mr. Roden and Mrs. Dharmavaram reported they will have a draft out shortly.

There was discussion of the time in previous years when the back page of the Township newsletter would be devoted to environmental issues. The EAC will look into doing that again.

Land Use Reviews–

Fieldstone – The Fieldstone plan is for 32 or 36 residential homes. The EAC members expressed concerns about the sketch plan, particularly with regard to density of homes and the waiver requested for an increase in home heights up to 45 feet. The two sketch plans will be presented to the Planning Commission in the near future.

Dobry by Erin Development – The preliminary plan submitted proposes construction of 76 age restricted housing units in 19 buildings. There are numerous waiver and variance requests. The plan appears to have major stormwater problems. The EAC members are currently drafting comments on this project. It was noted that Erin Development has a very poor track record in responding to EAC comment letters.

Caddis Healthcare Assisted Living Facility – This planned Senior care facility is on Dobry Road across from the Dobry Road Erin Development. A sketch plan was submitted that shows a three-story, 30,610 sq. Ft. assisted living building with an attached one-story 17,400 sq. Ft. memory care wing. There is also associated parking and stormwater management facilities. The sketch plan will be presented to the Planning Commission in the near future.

Dogwood Drive- This 5-home development is looking for final plan approval. They have agreed to address tree replacement once they get final approval. The EAC members have drafted a December 21, 2017 comment letter on the project that was sent to the BOS, Planning Commission, and the developer. They will present their final plan to the Planning Commission at their January 22nd meeting.

Octagon Dunkin Donuts/Daycare – This preliminary plan is for a 2,000 square foot Dunkin Donuts and a 12,000 square foot daycare. There was discussion of some natural resource and traffic concerns. EAC members will forward their comments to Mr. Solor before January 22nd and an EAC comment letter will be sent out. Mr. Solor and/or Mr. Dresser will attend the Planning Commission meeting on January 22nd when this project will be discussed.

Community Environmental Award - There was no update as Mr. Bortman was not in attendance.

ELCON Phase 2 - It was reviewed that the DEP determined that the Phase 2 application for ELCON was administratively incomplete. As such this issue will be removed from the EAC agenda if and until such time as it is resubmitted.

EAC Budget- There was discussion of an upcoming EAC Conference. Attendance was recommended by Mr. Roden, who has attended in the past and found it worthwhile. This year's budget was noted to be increased over last year's and that some planning should be put into potential uses for the budget. Additional lectures were briefly discussed. The EAC budget will be covered in more depth at the February meeting.

Spring Electronics Recycling Event - Mr. Bortman, though he will no longer be an EAC member after February, volunteered to continue coordinating the EAC 's recycling events.

With no further business to discuss, the January 10 meeting of the LMT Environmental Advisory Council was adjourned. The next meeting of the EAC will be held on February 14, 2018, at 7pm, in the LMT Municipal Building.

Respectfully Submitted,

Peter Solor, Co-chairman