

Lower Makefield Township
Environmental Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
February 14, 2018

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

Also in attendance were Barbara Baus and Lee Pedowicz, LMT Residents

Mr. Solor called the February EAC meeting to order at 7:00pm. The first order of business was the approval of the January EAC minutes. The minutes were approved unanimously, as presented.

Fracking Waste and DRBC – Mr. Roden presented the revised version of the fracking resolution and spoke about the hearing he attended in Philadelphia on January 25th. This led to a lengthy discussion. He would like the BOS to sign a resolution calling for a complete ban on fracking and all related activities throughout the Delaware River Basin. Mr. Grenier, and others, suggested changes to the document. Mr. Grenier feels that the EAC is not in a position to make a judgement about the science of the process, as it is not a scientific body, or to demand more regulations. He feels the most the EAC can say is that they don't want fracking and would support DRBC in a total ban. He then spoke about the science of fracking. He said that there were problems with fracking in the past but he believes that there is sufficient monitoring in place now as well as adequately strong regulations. Mr. Bray said he doesn't think we have a good long range idea of what will happen in the future and is frustrated that Pennsylvania is not taxing fracking. Mr. Grenier does not see any benefit to the resolution. He discussed other forms of energy and feels that the best solution to our energy needs is using a combination of sources.

Lecture Series –

Mrs. Dharmavaram gave an update on the February PECO lecture. It is still being reviewed by PECO. Mr. Pedowicz said he has contacts at PECO and will follow up.

Mrs. Bray reported that the April 21 lecture by Nancy Lawson is on track. A motion was made and passed to send Ms. Lawson a check for \$500 for the lecture.

Basin Naturalization Program – Mr. Bray indicated that the copy of the basin list that he recently received, which originally came from LMT Maintenance, was the same document that he already had in his possession. The next step will be to update the list, adding basins and columns and making it user friendly.

Mr. Bray suggested that some of the budget money be spent on seeding for the basins. It was thought that the group should meet with Mr. Hucklebridge after April 1. Mr. Solor reported that the 50 signs are finished and ready to be posted once the locations are agreed upon.

Solar Panel Grant – Mr. Bortman reported that the grant application has been submitted. The grant recipients will be announced in March.

Plastic Bag Use Reduction – Ms. Kamp and Mrs. Bray spoke about the status of this project. Shop Rite has indicated that they will include a message from the EAC, regarding the use of reusable bags, in their mailings to customers. In addition, they may be willing to partner with the EAC on other educational projects. There was talk about submitting an article to the Yardley Voice on plastic bags and on exploring ways of educating customers in the store. Ms. Kamp will continue her research on the availability of reusable bags.

Late Winter/Spring 2018 Newsletter – Mr. Roden and Mrs. Dharmavaram reported that, once a few articles are added, the newsletter will be ready to send out for review.

Land Use Reviews -

Dobry Medical – Mr. Grenier was told by the builders that they made some fundamental changes to their plan after hearing from residents. The sketch plan will be presented to the BOS on February 21. Mr. Pedowicz spoke about his concerns with the current plan. Mr. Bray suggested that more extensive buffering should be done.

Fieldstone – This is a historical dump split into two lots, one for residential development and the second a landfill the builders want to cap. Their presentation to the BOS was based on 32 lots of about a third of an acre, with 4,000 square foot houses. The BOS asked Mr. Grenier to get an opinion from the EAC on the best next step. Mr. Bray suggested getting a legal opinion. After further discussion, it was agreed that they will discuss this project in greater depth at the March meeting, after they have had a chance to gather all available information.

Snipes Tract – Legally, the earliest the BOS could vote on this project is March 4. Mr. Grenier plans to propose to the Board a process of holding two public workshops to get residents' comments on the plan, which the Board would review before voting.

Community Environmental Award – Mr. Bortman will get the plaque made and schedule the presentation of the plaque to the recipients for a future BOS meeting.

Spring Electronics Recycling Event – Mr. Bortman has not been able to find a date that works for both the high school volunteers and the E-Waste Experts. He has asked E-Waste if June 2 works and is waiting to hear back. If June 2 does not work, they will reconsider the May dates. Mr. Bortman reported that other municipalities will participate. Mr. Bortman also noted that E-Waste Experts accepts electronics at their facility during the week.

2018 EAC Initiatives –

Green Building Ordinance – Mr. Grenier and Mr. Solor are suggesting that revisions to the Ordinance be made. There was lengthy discussion of whether the Ordinance should require LEED Silver or Gold. It was agreed that the EAC should ask for Gold.

Tree Ordinances – Mr. Dresser is working on this project.

Tree Bank – Mr. Majewski is working with Troillo Developers to have them pay the money owed to the Tree Bank.

Tree Planting Plan – Mr. Grenier suggested that this plan be compared to the sidewalk plan to ensure that they are compatible. It was noted that a lot of the trees that Boucher and James planted are dying.

It was felt that the EAC needs to review what is being done as it appears that what is in the Plan is appropriate, but that the specs are not being followed.

Open Space – A new Open Space plan, which would reprioritize properties based upon availability, should be drafted in the near future.

EAC Alternates – It was noted that the EAC has two vacancies.

SALDO Ordinance – Mr. Grenier said that at the last Planning Commission meeting, there was a discussion of potential changes to the Ordinance, and Mr. Majewski is working on some of them now. However, no votes were taken on any of the changes. One thing under consideration is a technical review board (task force) which would provide much more transparency. Mr. Bray asked if an ordinance change is needed to establish the task force; Mr. Grenier is not sure yet. Mr. Solor will draft a resolution for next meeting.

Riparian Buffer – Based on current studies, a discussion ensued as to the possibility of extending LMT's riparian buffers to better protect the Township's stream system.

Heritage Tree Ordinance – Mr. Bray committed to presenting a draft copy of an ordinance at the April meeting. He will send it to everyone two weeks before the meeting.

Cross Attend Commission Meetings - Mr. Grenier, in his role as Liaison for several other commissions, is able to provide the EAC with more information than they received in the past. When the above noted Task Force is in place, there should be much greater transparency.

Odds and Ends – Mr. Roden spoke about the April 14 State Conference for EACs and recommended attendance. He and Mr. Solor are planning to attend.

Mr. Solor would like the EAC to agree on a budget plan.

Open Discussion – Mr. Grenier reported that, at the last BOS meeting, they had a discussion on the state of the sewer system in LMT. He said the biggest issue in the near future is going to be sewers. The BOS voted to have the Sewer Engineer review the options.

Mr. Grenier mentioned that LMT plans to have a table at Core Creek Park on April 28 at the Earth Day celebration and asked if the EAC would like to help.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Peter Solor, Co-chairman