

Lower Makefield Township
Environmental Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

May 8, 2018

Present: Barbara Baus (new member); Jim Bray; Alan Dresser, Co-Chair; Dan Grenier, BOS Liaison; Lisa Kamp; Paul Roden

Also in attendance were Laura Brandt (previous member of the EAC) and Tom Alvarez and Lee Pedowicz, LMT Residents

Mr. Dresser called the May EAC meeting to order at 7:00pm and the members welcomed Ms. Baus, a newly appointed member of the EAC. The first order of business was the approval of the April EAC minutes. The minutes were approved unanimously, as amended.

Township Garden

Mrs. Brandt had asked to attend the meeting to update the EAC on the status of the Township garden, which she had planted approximately 8 years ago but had gone unattended over the last several years. She is training to become a Master Gardener and, as such, needs volunteer hours and would like to renew and revitalize the garden as one of her projects. She asked for volunteers to help with the garden, as well as funds to purchase plants. A motion was passed unanimously to provide Mrs. Brandt up to \$750 for the garden. Mr. Bray expressed some concern about the garden falling into disrepair again but Mrs. Brandt assured him that the Master Gardeners are committed to maintaining the garden.

Lecture Series

Nancy Lawson Humane Garden April 21 Lecture – Mr. Roden reported that the lecture was a success with 35 people in attendance. The room worked out well, other than the difficulty at times in seeing the power point presentation because there was too much light coming through the windows. It was agreed that a comprehensive list of possible ways to publicize future lecture events will be compiled.

PECO Fall Lecture – Mr. Pedowicz spoke to PECO about the company having a presence at LMT Community Day. Mr. Pedowicz will have another conversation with PECO about a EAC October lecture.

Mrs. Bray suggested that the EAC have an expo in the Fall with the theme of reducing aspects of waste in the Township. It was agreed that a smaller project might be more effective.

May 5th Electronics Recycling Event – Mr. Roden reported that the event was a huge success, both in the number of cars dropping off electronics and the number of volunteers. The volunteers were primarily from the Pennsbury National Honor Society.

Basin Naturalization Program – Mr. Dresser reported that a meeting to discuss this project has been scheduled with Mr. Hucklebridge for 5/14 at 6pm. EAC members and Township Engineers will attend, and members of the public are also welcome. Mr. Dresser will check to see if Mr. Hucklebridge feels there needs to be an agenda. Mr. Bray suggested that they might want to have a discussion on the status of using Roundup on the agenda.

Ordinance Changes

“Gold LEEDS” Green Building Ordinance – The ordinance was approved 4-1 at the April 18, 2018 BOS meeting. Mr. Grenier indicated that the Satterthwaite house might be the first building to come under the Ordinance after it is adopted.

Tree/Woodlands/Stream Buffer Ordinance Proposals - There was a discussion on removing the stream buffer ordinance changes from the Tree/Woodland changes and proceed with just the Tree/Woodland changes for now. Dan Grenier will send a copy of the proposed changes to the Township Solicitor for review.

Heritage Tree Ordinance – Mr. Bray referred to the amended copy he sent out, with numbering changes that simplified the appeal process. He also removed the reference to endangered tree species. He reported that he had spoken to several municipalities with heritage tree ordinances and they all indicated that the heritage tree information is known to the public and that they have had no vandalism issues. Mr. Bray suggested that we should be thinking about a tree commission. Mr. Grenier stated that the next step is to send the draft to LMT's Solicitor for his comments and suggestions.

Mr. Grenier mentioned that a vote was taken to advertise the Bamboo Ordinance with strengthened language. The vote passed 4-1 (Tyler opposed) and they will be advertising it.

EAC State Network Conference on April 14. Mr. Roden and Mr. Solor attended the Conference. Mr. Roden said they found it extremely useful and encouraged other members to attend in the future. Mr. Roden will send out copies of the power points when he gets them.

Land Use Reviews

Dunkin Donuts - The plan was given approval at the April 9 Planning Commission meeting, pending the receipt of traffic data. There was discussion of the comments provided to the builder by the EAC regarding concerns over traffic issues and a question raised about whether the plan meets the terms of the Octagon agreement. Mr. Grenier said that the builder's attorneys feel the plan does meet the terms of the agreement.

Caddis Medical on Dobry Road – Mr. Dresser said that this is the only item on the agenda for the next Planning Commission meeting. The EAC had submitted a long list of comments and has not gotten a response. According to the developer, they are not impacting by the need to increase the wetland's buffer. Mr. Pedowicz asked if the Board would consider any other uses for the land, such as a solar farm. Mr. Grenier said that, as long as the builders are meeting all legal requirements they will get approval. He feels they are trying to meet the ordinances. He doesn't believe that traffic will present a big problem, but that stormwater may be an issue. He also noted that Caddis has not yet gone before the Zoning Hearing Board, which has responsibility for ruling on variances.

Snipe's Football, etc. Fields – A survey of replacement trees has been completed. It was determined that 88 trees greater than 10 inches in diameter will be killed and the needed replacement trees calculated. A balloon study was done to determine the impact of lights on the neighborhood.

The Township engineer (RV) is doing an analysis of the design and Mr. Majewski will review it. Others will be given the opportunity to suggest changes as well. A new sketch plan along with alternatives analysis should be completed in two months. Ms. Baus suggested that the Memorial Garden has plenty

of grass to accommodate fields there. It was suggested that Patterson Farm could be considered but there are significant issues with placing the fields there.

Dogwood Drive Final Plan – There has been no activity.

LMT Letter of Support for Yardley Watershed Grant – Mr. Dresser reported that the letter of support has been signed by Mr. Fedorchak and sent to Yardley Borough. Ms. Baus and Tom Alvarez will get involved with the project and follow up.

Plastic Bag Use – Shop Rite has sent out the EAC information compiled by Ms. Kamp to their customer list. There was discussion of putting educational info on an easel which can be seen as soon as you enter the store. Mr. Dresser suggested changing the information on the easel on a regular basis.

2017 Year End Review – Mr. Solor had drafted the review and forwarded it to Mr. Dresser, who will review it, make any changes and forward it to the rest of the EAC members.

Odds and Ends –

Mr. Solor is still trying to obtain Township energy use data.

Mr. Bray reported on the status of the Franklina tree project. Two Experts from Bowmans Hill Wildflower Preserve will be working with Mr. Bray to try to propagate the tree.

Mr. Grenier said that an Eagle Scout candidate has proposed a plan to vegetate the walkway in Veterans Square with winter berry holly and blue juniper.

Open Discussion – Mr. Grenier announced that the Environmental Stewardship Award will be presented at the May 16 BOS meeting to the Pennsbury National Honor Society students who provided so much help at the 2017 Electronic Waste Event.

With no further business to discuss, the May 8 meeting of the LMT Environmental Advisory Council was adjourned at 9:35pm. The next EAC meeting will be held on June 13, 2018, at 7pm, in the LMT Municipal Building.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alan Dresser, Co-chairman