

Lower Makefield Township
Environmental Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

October 10, 2018

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

Also in attendance were Tom Alvarez and Dave Long, LMT Residents

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

Mr. Long introduced himself and explained that, in 1996, LMT approved the establishment of a bluebird house trail in the Township. He has been monitoring and maintaining the boxes ever since. Since he may be leaving the area soon, he is hoping to find someone to take it over, and wanted input from the EAC. Mr. Solor asked him to put his request in writing.

EAC Lecture Series – Mrs. Dharmavaram reported that the November 10 lecture will begin at 10:00 am at the Community Center. A representative from Home Depot has been confirmed to speak on energy efficiency. A representative from Remington Vernick will also be there to speak about practical sustainability. Mrs. Dharmavaram will contact Mr. Pedowicz about the status of PECO's presentation. She will also create a flyer, which Mr. Roden will forward to the EAC email list.

Treevitalize Grants – After a discussion of the time that would be required to meet the November 9 deadline to apply for this grant, and with all the other work that needs to be done, it was decided to bypass this grant opportunity, but to revisit next year. _

Streambank Maintenance/Detention Basin/MS4 Program – Mr. Solor reported that the Township was out of compliance with MS4 and that the EAC has been tasked with helping the Township to get into compliance. This led to a discussion of the Basin Naturalization project, which Mr. Grenier indicated would be a big part of MS4 and could become a very large capital project.

The many concerns which have been raised about various water issues has led to the Township identifying areas where water bodies are impaired. After this process is complete, the best way to deal with these issues will be identified and an action item list created. The capital for the projects will come from the Township budget and could be a significant amount. Some basins will fall under capital project and others may be naturalized.

Ms. Baus, Mr. Solor, and Mrs. Dharmavaram have been meeting weekly on Thursday nights at 8pm in the library to discuss this and have itemized an agenda. Ms. Baus wants to do outreach with a brochure on how to maintain your property. This will be done using a multi-media approach, such as social media, dropping off brochures to homes around streams, etc.

Lecture Series – A February 16 date has been tentatively set for the first 2019 lecture, on the topic of streambank/detention basin/lawn maintenance. Since the September meeting, Mrs. Dharmavaram has reached out to the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, Sustainable Business Network, and Philadelphia Water Department, and Mr. Grenier to the DVRC and the Bucks County Planning Commission about any programs they might have available and Ms. Baus has spoken with Yardley Borough as well. Mr. Alvarez offered to reach out to Penn State Extension and Stroud's Research. The goal of the lecture is to encourage residents to become more engaged in watershed activities.

Sustainable PA/EAC Initiatives – The Sustainable PA project is currently on hold.

Elcon – Mr. Grenier asked the EAC to consider whether they have the knowledge to comment on the Elcon documentation, given that it is not only thousands of pages but also very technical. Alan said he would review the section covering air and comment on concerns that might arise if Elcon changes the truck route. Mr. Solor, Mr. Roden and Ms. Salvati will also review the document. Mr. Grenier would like their comments by the November 15 meeting but will wait until the December meeting if necessary.

Newsletter – Mr. Roden will release the newsletter which includes information on recycling and the November 10 lecture. He explained that he is using a new provider that will facilitate data transfer. Mr. Solor asked him to bring another EAC member up to speed on the new system to act as a backup.

Treebank Status - Mr. Dresser provided the Council with an updated Tree Bank Review, including a breakdown of tree bank income, money or trees owed to the Township, expenditures and cash on hand. He reported that most of the income came from the Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission. The Township is currently owed \$77,000. In response to a question from Mr. Solor about what would be done when developers are not paying their bills, Mr. Grenier said that there is a new structure in place that will make it easier for the Township to get the money they are owed. Mr. Dresser will forward the Review to the BOS.

Mr. Bray asked about the status of the Long Range Tree Plan, suggesting that timelines should be assigned to move the project along. Specifically, the EAC would like to see plantings on the ballfields across from the Township treated as a high priority. Mr. Grenier said that the budget is holding up some projects. Mr. Dresser said he will include some items from the long-range plan in his Tree Bank memo to the BOS.

Land Use Reviews – Mr. Grenier provided some updated information on the Caddis project. The Planning Commission recommended approval of the plan, as long as they comply with The Commission's comments.

EAC Budget – There was lengthy discussion of ways to use the remaining 2018 budget money. Suggestions included recycling bins, reusable bags and the 2019 Environmental Stewardship Award. The topic will be addressed again at the November meeting.

Heritage Tree Ordinance Update – The Heritage Tree Ordinance is in the review process. Mr. Bray will contact Mr. Majewski to get an update.

Odds and Ends – Mr. Bray raised the issue of the Stewardship Award. It was agreed that Five Mile Woods volunteer group would be selected as a nominee for the award in 2019. Mr. Bray will contact Mr. Heilferty for his input.

Ms. Kamp provided an overview of the document she compiled which compares the environmental impact of the different types of bags.

Mr. Solor mentioned the need for the EAC to come up with a way to identify environmental volunteer opportunities.

The Council agreed to hold an electronics recycling event in the Spring.

Updating the EAC website will be on the November agenda.

Mr. Bray updated the group on a call he had gotten from a realtor who was interested in selling the University of Dayton property. Mr. Grenier indicated that budget problems will not allow the Township to purchase the property at this time. Mr. Bray asked that someone get back to the realtor and Mr. Grenier agreed.

Mr. Grenier provided information on the sewer project.

With no further business to discuss, the October 10 meeting of the EAC was adjourned at 10:05PM. The next meeting of the EAC will be held on November 14 at 7PM in the LMT Municipal Building.

Respectfully Submitted,

Peter Solor, Co-chairman