

January 12, 2007

To: LMT Board of Supervisors

From: LMT EAC

Subject: 2006 Year End Review

In order to measure the contribution the LMT EAC is making to the citizens of the Township, it seems appropriate to prepare a year-end review for the Board of Supervisors, listing some of the noteworthy projects the Council has worked on during the past year. In addition, it seems equally appropriate to note some of the projects the EAC is planning for the year ahead. It is our intention to write a review such as this at the end of every year, to provide an historical record for those members of the community who will follow after us.

The year 2006 saw the EAC working on the following projects:

1. EAC Reorganization – In March of 2006, in addition to its other duties, the EAC was reorganized to become a Land Use Review Board. In addition, the membership was increased to 7, plus an alternate, and liaison members from other Boards were eliminated. Starting with the Matrix Project, in the second half of the year, the EAC reviewed an additional 5 other Land Use applications.
2. Environmental Publication Rack – This rack was installed in a prominent place in the Administration Building lobby and this has been quite popular with Township residents. It is restocked 2-3 times per month.
3. Environmental Project List Ranking – The EAC proposed a list of ranked, future environmental projects and shared the information with other Township Boards and with the Board of Supervisors.
4. Environmental Lecture Series – As part of an ongoing series, lectures were given on “Rain Gardens,” and the “Deer Issue in Suburbia.” Both of these lectures featured experts in their respective fields and were well-attended. In addition, the consultant giving the Deer Lecture has been retained by the Township to prepare a proposal that will address the Deer Issue in the Township.
5. Farmers Market – The EAC formed a sub-committee that invited local farmers to sell their wares during the September Community Day celebration. Based upon the input we received, this venture was quite successful and bodes well for the future.
6. Brock Creek Rehabilitation – Since cost estimates exceeded the grant money received for this project, there was a possibility of the Township not being able to undertake this project. The EAC, in conjunction with Township officials, was able to have the completion date extended into the new year and also to receive additional grant monies to complete the project.
7. Recycling Program – An evaluation of LMT’s recycling program identified additional sources and tonnage of recycling material. As a result, the Township is receiving an additional \$22,000 in annually recurring State grant money. Letters were written to each business in the Township’s four major office complexes informing them of their obligations to recycle under State and local laws and providing information on how to set up an office paper recycling program. Also, recycling containers have been purchased for use in Macclesfield Park.
8. Composting – The EAC, along with a Township official, visited a state-of-the-art composting operation in Montgomery County to gauge its applicability to Lower Makefield Township. In addition, a local farmer put on a composting presentation to the EAC that was very well received.

The EAC feels such an operation could have merit for LMT and also provide an economical and, even possibly, a profitable way of disposing of the excess leaves generated during the Township's Fall leaf pickup collection.

9. Native Plant Ordinance – A draft copy of this ordinance was prepared by the EAC and was reviewed by both the LMT Planning Commission and the LMT Board of Supervisors. It is currently being reviewed by the Bucks County Planning Commission.
10. Low Impact Development (L.I.D.) Stormwater Management Ordinance – Two members of the EAC were part of the task force that wrote this comprehensive stormwater management ordinance. In addition, the EAC, along with the LMT Planning Commission, reviewed and made suggestions, many of which were incorporated into the final product. This ordinance is quite progressive and the Township was lauded for its efforts in Stormwater Management by both the Sierra Club and the National Wildlife Federation.
11. Cool Cities Program - This program, sponsored by the Sierra Club, addresses the huge issues of Energy Efficiency and Global Warming. A representative of the Sierra Club gave a presentation that was well received by the EAC. In line with this program, the EAC has acted as a facilitator in bringing engineering firms, with expertise in preparing comprehensive energy audits, into the Township, to submit proposals.

The attached list incorporates some of the items the EAC intends to work on in the current year.

1. Environmental Lecture Series – These popular lectures will continue in 2007 and at least 3 are planned for the year. The first is already scheduled for March, when Mike McGrath, the popular host of NPR's "You Bet Your Garden," will give a lecture on "Lawns Without Chemicals."
2. Open Space Inventory – The EAC is currently working on an updated open space inventory for the Township. This new inventory will scrutinize all remaining properties in the Township, regardless of size, assign priorities and make recommendations to the Township regarding acquisition. This will place the Township in a favorable position when the County Open Space bond monies are released, hopefully later this year.
3. Native Plant Ordinance – This cutting edge ordinance is currently wending its way through the review process. It is the EAC's goal to have this ordinance signed during the first quarter of the year.
4. Cool Cities Proposal – The Cool Cities program addresses the huge issue of Global Warming by requesting that the municipality sign a non-binding accord that states programs will be undertaken to reduce greenhouse gasses and become more energy efficient. The EAC is currently reviewing such a proposal and it will be presented to the Board of Supervisors in the very near future for their consideration. In line with this proposal, the EAC, and the Township Manager, will continue to facilitate an energy audit by requesting proposals from firms possessing expertise in that field.
5. Farmers Market – The sub-committee that was responsible for the successful Farmers' Market held during Community Day is still in existence and is currently working on the feasibility of making such a market a permanent fixture in the Township.
6. Recycling – The EAC will continue to monitor the Township's recycling program with the goal of increasing compliance, which should result in additional revenues for the Township. In addition, several suggested ordinance changes that will enhance recycling will be recommended to the recently constituted LMT Ordinance Review Task Force.
7. Trash Hauling Contract – It is the opinion of the EAC that the Township should explore the possibility of retaining a single contractor responsible for trash pickup within the Township. This

could result in environmental benefits, as well as cost savings to Township residents. A sample contract from another municipality is available when the Township is ready to explore this issue.

8. Invasive Plant Ordinance – Environmentalists view this issue only second to Global Warming in importance. The EAC will investigate the feasibility of preparing an ordinance that addresses this issue.
9. Green Building Codes – As we speak, LEED certified green buildings are being built all over the United States. The EAC will investigate the feasibility of amending LMT's private house and commercial building codes to incorporate LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified buildings.
10. EAC Agenda – Website – In order to facilitate open government and community interest, starting with the February meeting date, the EAC agenda will appear on LMT's website.

The EAC is of the opinion that 2006 has been a year of progress for LMT and it is hoped that our efforts have contributed to that accomplishment. Thanks to the Board of Supervisors, the re-organization early in 2006 has re-invigorated the EAC, and the addition of enthusiastic, energized people bodes well for the future.

We have an ambitious agenda and look forward to the challenges this new year will bring.

Sincerely,

LMT EAC

Cc: T. Fedorchak, LMT Manager  
J. Majewski, Township Engineer