

December 16, 2021

To: LMT Board of Supervisors

From: LMT EAC

Subject: 2020 Year End Review

The EAC in LMT plays an important role in enhancing the quality of life for all citizens of our township. Accordingly, it is deemed important for us to prepare a Year End Review for the citizens and leaders of our community so that they may more properly assess the value we add to the quality of life in LMT. This review will also briefly discuss the projects we intend to pursue in 2021.

Sound environmental practices equate to a sound economic policy. We feel strongly that our efforts have not only resulted in LMT becoming a 'better place to live' and 'a standout environmental community', but by doing so, we have also improved home values and the quality of life in the township.

This Year End Review will be widely distributed so that the BOS and LMT's citizens become aware of the positive work being done in our Township by a dedicated group of volunteers.

The report is as follows:

1. Land Use Reviews – The EAC is designated a land use review board for the Township. In 2020, the EAC reviewed and provided comments to the Township on the following projects:
  - a. Marrazzo's Townhomes – 11 townhomes were proposed at the site of the former Marrazzo's Garden Store. EAC January 14, 2020 comment letter submitted.
  - b. Erin Development's Dobry Road Development (76 Unit Age Restricted Housing) – June 10, 2020 comment letter on the Final Plan.
  - c. Winterseen – Proposal to scrap off existing house and build 4 condos. EAC January 8, 2020 comment letter.
  - d. PA-American Water Booster Pump Station – A new booster pump and enlarged driveway proposed at the existing pump station between the Caiola and Fred Allen ballfields. EAC October 9, 2020 comment letter.
  - e. Picket Preserve Development – This major proposed development on a 37 acre site will be divided between commercial retail (including a Wegmans grocery store) and 200 residential apartment units. EAC November 5, 2020 comment letter on the preliminary/final plans for this project was submitted.
2. Styrofoam Recycling Day – The EAC hosted very successful recycling events at the Township Building's parking lot on January 4th, April 18th and October 31st. Mark Bortman of Exact Solar generously provided transport of the collected styrofoam to Princeton Moulding near Princeton. It is estimated that 36 cubic yards of Styrofoam was collected at these events.
3. Environmental Lecture Series and Outreach – Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a lecture series was not performed in 2020.
4. Environmental Stewardship Award – The Environmental Stewardship Award Program, an EAC initiative that started in 2008, has not only recognized the merit of our citizens, but has resulted in very favorable publicity for LMT as well. The 2020 award was given to Mark and Dara Bortman of Exact Solar. Mark is a past member of the EAC and is the owner of the local solar company, Exact Solar. Mark has made it possible for LMT to host electronic waste collections in the past, and, over the last 2 years, four very successful styrofoam collections as well. Mark not only supplies company vans to transfer the Styrofoam to processors but also supplies company drivers as well. These recycling programs have

been immensely popular and many attendees eagerly await the next collection event. Since the award parameters stipulate that if the winner is a for-profit business, the award stipend must be given to a select list of local nonprofits. Dara and Mark have chosen the Delaware River Keeper Network as the recipient of the 2020 \$1000 award. Thanks to Dara and Mark: the award is well deserved.

5. Long Range Tree Planting Plan/Volunteer Participation – The EAC, along with Parks & Recreation and Public Works, organized a tree planting along the southern portion of a tributary to Buck Creek at Patterson Farm on November 7, 2020. The tree/shrub planting utilized the Park & Recreation Department to dig the initial locations for the planting. Local volunteers, EAC and Board of Supervisor members were present to assist with planting. The planting consisted of 66 shade trees, and 180 shrubs. Plant material was obtained from Feeney's Nursery, Shady Brook, and Pinelands Nursery.
6. Sustainable PA, Ready For 100 Program – Continued to learn more about Sierra Club's Ready for 100 initiative (commitments by municipalities to commit to 100% renewable electricity by 2035 and heating & transportation to be renewable-powered by 2050) and presented draft resolution to the EAC for review; tried to rekindle interest in Cool Cities and the Sustainable PA initiative among the BOS.
7. Newsletter/Every Bit Counts – The LMT EAC highlights work of community residents who have in some way contributed to environmental sustainability with initiatives in their own homes. The works of residents is being featured in a mini-newsletter called 'Every Bit Counts'. The August 2020 edition featured a resident who uses native plants in her backyard to support feeding and nesting habitats for local insects and birds. The September 2020 edition featured residents who use a home solar system that fully offsets their energy needs. More details can be found here: <https://www.lmt.org/government/boards-and-commissions/environmental-advisory-council/every-bit-counts-snippets-of-community-action/> 'The EAC Newsletter is published quarterly with special announcements for events such as Styrofoam Recycling and Speakers sent to over 300 LMT and 300 non-LMT residents on our e-mail lists.

The following is a list of projects that the EAC intends to pursue in 2021:

- 1) Environmental Lecture Series – The EAC is proposing a lecture series regarding invasive species (“What’s Bugging Our Trees in Pennsylvania”) by Penn State Master Gardener Colleen Michaels. The tentative date was scheduled for September 26<sup>th</sup>, however due to COVID-19 concerns this lecture will be rescheduled to spring 2021.
- 2) Implement the Township’s approved tree planting plan by utilizing the Tree Bank funds.
- 3) Long Range Tree Planting Plan/Volunteer Participation – The EAC is proposing to plant a section of a Buck Creek tributary within Patterson Farm in the fall of 2021
- 4) Tree Bank Payments by Developers – The EAC will continue its investigation of money owed to the Township’s Tree Bank. The EAC will consider drafting a possible ordinance change that would create interest charges on late payments or to hold development permits from release until fees were paid.
- 5) Revive and strengthen the Township’s basin naturalization program
- 6) Styrofoam Collections – A January 9, 2021 Styrofoam collection event is scheduled.
- 7) Expansion of EAC outreach to LMT residents
- 8) Implementation of past LMT commitments to clean power purchasing
- 9) Work with local EACs to limit the use of plastic bags
- 10) Create a list of opportunities for township residents and local organizations to volunteer to support local environmental improvements

- 11) Participate jointly with the Yardley EAC regarding analysis and monitoring of the Bucks and Brock Creek Watersheds
- 12) Submit a resolution for RF100 initiative; investigate opportunities for dark sky programs and other light pollution reduction initiatives; work with LMT on progressing further with the Cool Cities and Sustainable PA initiatives; work with LMT on Electric Vehicle charging stations, transitioning vehicle fleets to Electric Vehicles, and other energy initiatives
- 13) The EAC continues to submit information regarding environmental concerns and events in a newsletter

The year 2020 was a productive one, but not without frustrations, for the Environmental Advisory Council. It is our steadfast opinion that the EAC's projects translate not only to a better environment in the Township, but to economic savings for the citizens of LMT as well. As always, it is both a privilege and a pleasure to serve the people of Lower Makefield.

Sincerely,

The LMT EAC

Linda Salvati – Chair

Kevin Gallen – Co-Chair

Jim Bray, Member

Paul Roden, Member

Soumya Dharmavaram, Member

Alan Dresser, Alternate Member