

Lower Makefield Township
Environmental Advisory Council

August 14, 2019

EAC Meeting Minutes

The June 13, 2019 Minutes were approved unannimously

Tree Planting :

The first Tree Planting for the Fall Season will be in November 16 and possibly the 17th in areas around the Stoddard Ball fields across from the Township Building. Monica T from the Community Center will be coordinating volunteers to help plant the trees into holes in the ground dug by Public Works. The trees will be purchased with funds from the Tree Bank funds. There are plans for tree planting at the Patterson Farm next spring. A total of approximately 90 shade trees, understory trees and shrubs will be planted along a stream toward the center of the farm to improve its buffer.

Land Use Plans:

Marazzo's - The developer for the Marazzo's Nursury and Landscaping site on the corner of Sutphin and Yardley Makefield/Pine Grove Roads is requesting a zoning variance that will allow townhomes in an area zoned R-2. The Zoning Board meeting is scheduled for Sept. 17th. They are now interested in building 11 town house units down from 14 in a previous sketch plan.

Proposed Retail/Residential Overlay District – In support of a proposed 100,000 ft³ Wegman's Supermarket, 55,000 ft³ of retail space and 200 unit Apartment Complex, a overlay on the O-R zoned area within ¼ mile of the historic district is being considered by the Township. The property at the intersection of Stoney Hill and Township Line Roads, across from the Shady Brook Farms. The Planning Commission will be meeting in the near future to discuss these ordinance changes.

Concerns were expressed about the impact on traffic congestion and other environmental issues. This is the third proposal attempt for the development of this property. An office building was approved in 2010 at that location. Later there was a proposal for the construction of 168 apartment complex without a supermarket or retail store space was voted down by the Board of Supervisors (BOS) of LMT a few years ago by a vote of 3 to 2.

Dobry Road Development Project:

The 5th revision to the preliminary plan has been submitted for the Dolby Road age-restricted housing site. Peter Solar and Alan Dresser are reviewing the revised plan and will circulate comments for the EAC to consider.

LMT Community Pride Day, Sunday, September 1, 2019 LMT Community Pool Parking Lot

Peter Solar, Alan Dresser and Paul Roden will set up a tent, tables and literature at the annual Community Pride Day, Sunday, September 1, 2019. Barbara Baus and Jeanne Bray will also help out. We will pass out shopping bags to residents signing the pledge to not use plastic bags. Re-useable canvas and plastic bags were obtained as a donation from Shoprite and Giant Supermarkets. This annual event has been a good outreach to the LMT public. We will also promote our Fall Film showing, Styrofoam Recycling and Tree Planting events. The table and tent will be staffed from 12 pm to 3:30 p.m.

Basin Naturalization Program:

Public Works Staff need to be reminded and trained not to completely mow down all of the vegetation in the rainwater basins around the township. Members of the EAC will continue to meet with director of Public Works and the Township Manager, to develop long term plans to convert and maintain all LMT Rain Water Catchment Basins, so that they are all naturalized with the proper types of plants and there are no impediments to rainwater entering them by removing debris from storm drains and any cement spillways. Storm drainage basin retrofits will be incorporated into the long-term strategic plan for the Township.

PECO Green Region Grant

Kevin will look further into this Grant opportunity which provides funding for planning, developing, and implementing open space and passive recreation.

Volunteer Program:

Marsha, Director of the LMT Community Center is coordinating events in the Township that need volunteers, such as our upcoming tree planting at the Caiola the baseball fields and the Styrofoam Recycling. The LMT EAC will also working with the Tree Tenders, the National Honor Societies of Pennsbury and Council Rock High School, Boyscout, Girl Scout and other environmental groups to help solicit volunteers for events like tree planting and recycling.

Plastic Bag Use Reduction Project:

Bags have been donated from Shoprite and from Giant, which we will give out at EAC events in exchange for a LMT Resident signing a pledge to use them when purchasing groceries and other items from retail stores. Jean Bray, LMT Resident and Lisa Kemp have been heading up this project.

Lecture Series Film:

Alan Dresser has developed a flyer for the Saturday, October 26, 2019 at 9:00 a.m., Film and Discussion, "The Kingdom –How Fungi Made Our World. This will be held in conjunction with our styrofoam recycling drive.

Newsletter:

The Summer issue is just about ready. Topics include the upcoming Film presentation, the Styrofoam Recycling, Electrical Safety for Fall Tree Pruning, and the Plastic Bag Initiative.

Odds and Ends:

LMT BOS have contacted a consultant to review ideas for dealing with the sewage treatment plant and sewage piping for the LMT. The consultant's report should be arriving for the various options for consideration.

Open Discussion:**ELCON:**

ELCON has submitted a revised proposal to the PA DEP. The application for an air permit is currently be reviewed by PADEP. The RCRA Part B permit application was denied by PADEP, but ELCON is currently trying to address the reasons for the denial. The ELCON's law firm has brought suit in the Bucks County Court of Common Pleas against the Fall Township Board of Supervisors rejection of their plans for their facility on the USX site in Falls Township. According to the Daily Intelligencer of Bucks County, "An appeal was filed June 13, 2019.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, September 11, 2019 7:30 p.m.