

**Lower Makefield Township
Environmental Advisory Council
October 14, 2021**

Meeting Minutes

Present: Linda Salvati, Chairperson; Suzanne Blundi, BOS Liaison; Jim Bray; Soumya Dharmavaram; Alan Dresser; Kevin Gallen; Jonah Rank, Paul Roden

The October 9, 2021 meeting of the EAC was an all virtual meeting. Ms. Salvati called the meeting to order at 6:00PM.

Approval of September 9, 2021 Minutes – Mr. Roden moved to approve the September minutes as presented, Mr. Bray seconded the motion and the minutes were approved unanimously. Ms. Salvati will forward the approved copy to the EAC and the Township staff.

Tree Ordinance – EAC's Recommendations on Proposed Changes - Mr. Bray reported that he, Ms. Salvati and Mr. Majewski will be meeting on Thursday, October 21 to discuss the work they have been doing on the proposed changes. They will present the updated information at the November EAC meeting.

Ms. Salvati provided information on the appropriate language to use for invasive plant species.

Tree Planting 2021 Locations

Patterson Farm - The tree planting at Patterson Farm will start at 9am on October 23rd. The trees and shrubs will be delivered to the site at 8am. Anyone who wants to help unload the trees would be welcome. Volunteers should bring their own gloves and shovels.

Twig Lane Tot Park and Revere Road Tennis Court - The plantings on these two Township sites are scheduled to be done on October 19 and 20.

Land Use Plans

Deck Minor Subdivision – The date for their next hearing before the Zoning Hearing Board is to be determined. Because of the interest in the proposal, it will be a special meeting that only discusses this issue.

Jennings Lot Subdivision – The date for their next hearing before the Zoning Hearing Board is October 19. Mr. Dresser had drafted an EAC letter indicating our support of the BOS's opposition to the proposed zoning changes. He said the letter would be modified slightly to point out the required net lot size needed for building a house at that location. A motion was made by Ms. Salvati and seconded by Mr. Roden to approve Mr. Dresser draft letter with the minor modifications and forwarding the letter to the BOS.

Bucks County Smiles Office Building - The plan is currently being reworked. Mr. Dresser is hopeful that the new plan will be less of an impact on the environment such as reducing the amount of woodlands removed from 75% to the zoning requirement of 30%. The hearing for variances is scheduled for November 16.

Recycling

September 18 Recycling Event – The event was a huge success - large numbers of corks, pill bottles and styrofoam pieces, including many styrofoam cartons for the cat group, were collected. Mr. Dresser will forward pictures taken at the event to Mr. Roden for the newsletter. Mr. Dresser suggested January 8, 2022 for our next event. He will follow up with Mr. Bortman to confirm that the date works for him and to see if Mr. Bortman can estimate the amount of styrofoam we have collected during the year. This information can be part of the year end review. There was a discussion on adding printer cartridges to the collection, this discussion will be continued at the next meeting. Mr. Gallen offered to manage the collection and recycling of household batteries.

Plastic Bags – Mr. Rank has been researching plastic bag legislation in Pennsylvania. His next step will be to reach out to EACs of other nearby municipalities in an effort to find who are interested in a collaboration with LMT.

Environmental Stewardship Award - Mr. Bray made a motion that the 2021 Award be presented to Heather Guidice of Kona Composting. Mr. Rank seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Parks and Recreation Zero Waste Plan on Plastics – Ms. Tierney joined the meeting to discuss the Zero Waste two-year plan that Parks and Rec had drafted. The data from Mr. Rank's survey of recycling in LMT parks draft plan. The primary focus of the Plan was increasing the recycling of plastic water bottles and cans, given that the majority of them end up in the trash. Some ideas on ways to improve the recycling percentages were discussed, such as increasing the number of recycling bins, better signage, increased education and the availability of water fountains in the parks. Ms. Salvati asked the EAC members to read the plan and forward their questions and comments on the plan to Ms. Tierney. In the meantime, the EAC will be researching signage options, as well as bin and education options.

With no further business to discuss, Mr. Rank moved to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Dresser seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 7:15. The date for the next EAC meeting is to be determined.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Salvati, Chairperson