

**Lower Makefield Township
Environmental Advisory Council**

**May 5, 2022
Meeting Minutes**

Present: Linda Salvati, Co-Chair; Alan Dresser, Co-Chair; Suzanne Blundi, BOS Liaison; James Bray; Soumya Dharmavaram; Kevin Gallen; Jonah Rank

Ms. Salvati asked for a motion to call the May 5, 2022 EAC meeting to order. Mr. Bray moved to open the meeting, Mr. Rank seconded the motion and the hybrid EAC meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Review/Approval of April 7, 2022 Minutes - The first order of business was approval of the April 7, 2022 EAC minutes. Mr. Dresser made a motion to approve the minutes, and Mr. Bray seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously. Ms. Salvati will forward the minutes to the Township.

Ms. Blundi announced that Mr. Hucklebridge offered his resignation as Director of the LMT Public Works Department at the May 4 BOS meeting. He will be staying until around the middle of June.

Park & Rec. Update

Ms. Tierney had asked to join the meeting to reconnect with the EAC on the recycling projects that they are working on together.

To help with the educational component of the Recycling plan, Mr. Rank had introduced a Pennsbury School contact to the Township. He is helping the Township to identify what kind of educational plan for recycling would be consistent both with what the children are learning in school and in the Park system.

They had also considered composting in the Parks and determined that it should be introduced slowly, perhaps starting with the pool area.

Ms. Tierney also mentioned that she had begun researching the idea of providing rain barrels for LMT residents. She is in the very beginning stages of investigating the idea and is in communication with one wastewater company. Mr. Bray talked about a similar project in the Township years ago when there was a lecture on rain barrels sponsored by the Master Gardener network. Rain barrels were made available through a grant and were distributed to residents. Mrs. Dharmavaram also spoke about some experiences she had with rain barrels. Ms. Salvati asked that Ms. Tierney and Mrs. Dharmavaram continue collecting information on rain barrels. It was agreed that educating the residents is a vital first step in moving forward with this project.

Mr. Dresser raised some questions about the recently released Park and Rec document "Play for All". Ms. Tierney indicated that the "Play for All" is basically complete but that

Mr. Dresser is welcome to provide comments. She clarified that the Plan is a big picture document, not a detailed plan for any one of the parks. The plans for individual parks will come later.

Update on the Kids Kingdom Planting - Ms. Salvati noted that she, Mr. Bray and Mrs. Dharmavaram visited the Kids Kingdom site with Ms. Tierney and Mr. Hucklebridge. She forwarded a copy of the plan for the plantings at the site to EAC members. It encompassed approximately 37 trees. However, because of bidding constraints this number will probably be reduced to around 25 trees. Ms. Salvati also explained that Fernbrook Nursery would not have the time to work with us on the plan until June or July, so we are looking at a Fall Planting.

Tree Planting 2022 Locations - There was discussion of when and where tree planting might take place on Patterson Farm and whether we might want to do a Fall volunteer planting. Mr. Dresser asked the EAC members to walk along Mirror Lake Road and come up with some ideas. Mr. Bray suggested that a long row of 30-40 maples of exceptional color would make that area a township treasure. Since the size of these trees would require an outside planting firm this would require the project go out for bidding. Suzanne thought the Township would be incapable of conducting such a process this year.

Mr. Bray spoke about his visit to the Garden of Reflection and about where a few trees need to be replaced. Mr. Bray stated that a purchase order for these trees has been forwarded to Fernbrook and current plans are for a late Spring planting.

Land Use Plans - Mr. Dresser reported no new land use plans were submitted to the Township this last month. There is a Zoning Board meeting on May 16th that is scheduled to consider environmental related variances for a property on Sandy Run Road next to the bridge that crosses Brock Creek. The owners want to build a home there.

Recycling – Mr. Dresser reported on the Middletown Township April 23 Earth Day event, which was attended by Mr. Roden, Mr. Dresser and Mrs. Bray. Mr. Dresser noted that it was fairly successful with 20+ signing up to receive EAC newsletters.

Mr. Dresser also spoke about the upcoming styrofoam/cork/battery/pill bottle collection event. It is scheduled for May 21 from 10 a.m. - noon at the LMT Administration Building. The company receiving the styrofoam asked that they receive it in plastic bags, so Mr. Dresser purchased 30-100 gallon clear plastic bags.

Mr. Rank and Ms. Blundi reported on the letter that Mr. Rank had drafted and forwarded to the LMT BOS. The Supervisors are to send the letter to the Bucks County Commissioners. It encourages the Commissioners to take steps to making Bucks County plastic bag free. The BOS thought that the request should be addressed to a larger entity, the state of PA, and should be sent to the Governor, State Senator Steve

Santarsiero and State Representative Perry Warren. As a result some of the language will have to change.

EAC Lecture Series – Mrs. Dhamavaram reported that the April 29 EAC lecture on Native Plants exceeded their expectations, with many more attendees (53) than expected. Mrs. Dhamavaram praised the four speakers and thanked Mr. Gallen and Mr. Roden for their help.

Mr. Bray will follow up on the "What's Bugging Our Trees" lecture for the Fall. If that isn't possible, he will look into a rain barrel lecture.

Odds and Ends – Mr. Gallen reported that he is working with a heat pump group on education and outreach.

Mr. Dresser mentioned that there are two special meetings planned to discuss the distribution of sewer sale funds. One is May 31st and the other is June 9th.

With no more business to discuss the EAC was adjourned at 7:13PM. The next meeting of the EAC is to be determined.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Salvati, Chairperson