

LOWER MAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
MAY 9, 2024 HYBRID MEETING MINUTES

Present: Jim Bray, Chair; Alan Dresser; Vice Chair; Soumya Dharmavaram; Kevin Gallen; Dominique Mitchell, Alternate Member; Paul Roden

The first order of business was review and approval of the April 11, 2024 minutes. Mr. Bray called for a vote, and all approved the minutes. Mr. Bray will forward them to the Township.

2024 Long-Range Master Tree Plan – Mr. Bray has been meeting with Mr. Majewski, who told him a copy of the draft plan would be available on May 10. There will be no spring planting of trees this year.

Recycling Recap- This recycling event went very smoothly as there were plenty of volunteers to help. We collected 42 - 55gal. bags of Styrofoam that will be converted into new packaging material as well as other consumer items such as picture frames, etc. This event continues to be one of the most successful EAC projects. The next event will be held sometime in the fall

Masters of the Skies Falconry Event- This LMT joint EAC/Bird Town event drew over 110 guests at Memorial Park and was extremely well-received. Due to popular demand a similar event will probably be held this Fall. The event resulted in great publicity for LMT.

Park and Rec Recycling Recommendations – Mr. Bray asked Mr. Gallen, based on EAC input, to come up with his 4 or 5 top choices and send them out to the EAC before the next meeting.

Proposed Single Use Plastics Ban – Ms. Mitchell has been in contact with Elaine McCarron, who is with Newtown Township's EAC and took the lead on Newtown's plastics ban. Ms. Mitchell is in the process of scheduling a meeting with Ms. McCarron who had offered to share her information Mr. Bray mentioned that Supervisor John Lewis is most interested in getting feedback from Wegman's and Newtown Township as to how the ban is working.

Update on Land Use Plans- Mr. Dresser is in the process of drafting comments on the proposed Wright Farm 47 home subdivision. He plans on submitting them to the Township by the end of the month. There was discussion on the new 20% open space requirement for residential developments.

EAC Lecture and Event Series – In addition to a possible second Falconry Exhibition, Mr. Bray discussed the possibility of a collaboration with Newtown Theater. The documentary "The Kingdom: How Fungi Made the World" will be shown in the fall. He also said he would be willing to do another lecture on LMT's innovative Native Plant Ordinance later in the year. It was decided that no lectures will be scheduled for the summer months of June-September.

Tree City USA – A vote was taken to approve an EAC effort to get the Township to adopt The Tree City USA program and become a Tree City. The vote passed. Mr. Bray will discuss how to move forward with the project with Ms. Dharmavaram.

Model Energy Ordinance – Mr. Gallen provided an overview of his meeting with Township staff. The Model Energy Ordinance was given by the Planning Commission to the EAC to get their input. Mr. Gallen reviewed the Ordinance. Mr. Dresser mentioned that we should not be encouraging wood burning boilers in LMT. Mr. Bray asked Mr. Gallen to write a response to the PC to be sent out to all EAC members prior to the next mtg.

Solar for LMT – Mr. Gallen reported that Mr. Kratzer expressed an interest in solar power for Township buildings but there was no discussion of a timeframe. Improvements on the current roof at the main LMT building are needed if solar rooftop installation is to occur there. Mr. Bray will talk again to Mr. Kratzer to see what plans he envisions for a solar installation(s) for the township.

Heritage Tree Ordinance – Mr. Bray said based on approximate calculations the Hackberry Tree located on private property in the northern part of the township might be the third or fourth largest in the State. Future plans are to have a representative from Big Trees of Pa to visit the Hackberry site, as well as the sites of other township trees of note. After the Big Tree representative makes official measurements, a determination will be made if any of the trees are to be included in the Big Trees of PA Book and included as an LMT Heritage Tree.

Open Space Recommendations – Ballot Referendum- Mr. Dresser stated that the ordinance to authorize the referendum must be approved by the BOS by late August. The EAC is recommending that this ordinance be approved and placed on the November 2024 Ballot. Hopefully, an ordinance for a ballot referendum for 10-15 million dollars will be approved for advertising at the June 5, 2024 BOS Mtg.

EAC and Township Newsletters – Mr. Roden will plan to send out a newsletter sometime during the Summer.

Odds and Ends – The EAC web page needs updating, Mr. Dresser said he would discuss this issue with Ms. McVan.

There being no further business to discuss, the EAC May 9, 2024 meeting was adjourned. The next EAC meeting will be held on June 13.

Respectfully Submitted,

James Bray, Chair