

LOWER MAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
Meeting Minutes November 14, 2024

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

Also in attendance were Kellie F., LMT resident; Charlie Johnsrud, LMT resident; Steven Merkel, Director of the Mirror Lake Community Asso. (MLCA).

The first order of business was review and approval of the October 10, 2024 meeting minutes. Mr. Bray called for a motion to approve the minutes and they were approved unanimously.

2024 Long-Range Master Tree Plan – Mr. Bray gave a brief history of tree planting in the Township and of the origins of the Tree Bank. In 2014 the EAC recommended changes to the ordinances that allowed land developers to put money in the Tree Bank to replace the trees that were taken down in the process of development instead of planting them on-site.

The 2024 Tree Plan which includes the planting of 1,545 trees, 1,319 shrubs, and 1,500 herbaceous plants (all native) has begun with fall tree plantings in Macclesfield Park and Makefield Highlands Golf Course.

Mr. Merkel raised the question of whether the MLCA, which recently had trees torn down as part of a project, would be able to get them replaced by the Tree Bank. Mr. Bray said that might be possible as long as the trees are not planted on private property.

Recycling – The next Styrofoam/Pill Bottle/Cork/Battery recycling event will be held on January 11th from 10AM to Noon in front of the Lower Makefield Township Building. Volunteers are always welcome. Mr. Gallen mentioned that MOM grocery, which had been taking the batteries and corks, is no longer taking the batteries. He is looking for another place. LMT and Yarldey are sponsoring an electronics recycling event on Dec. 14 at the pool parking lot.

Single Trash Hauler Analysis – A vote was called to approve the draft report entitled “Report on Township Residential Solid Wast/Recycling/Leaf Waste Collection”, Mr. Gallen seconded the motion and all were in favor. The final report will be presented to the BOS at either 2nd BOS Mtg. in December 2024, or the 2nd BOS Mtg. in January 2025.

Mrs. Mitchell asked about leaf pickup.

LMT Bird Town PA - Through lectures and events (e.g Live Falconry Presentation) we are working with the Township to make more residents aware of the benefits associated to being a Bird Town community. If you are interested in our Bird Town and/or want to know about the upcoming interesting events that Bird Town is bringing to Lower Makefield, send your email address to jjyardley56@gmail.com.

Proposed Single Use Plastics Ban – This project will be discussed after the single trash hauler presentation, planned for Dec. 2024 or Jan. 2025.

Update on Land Use Plans – There has been no new or revised development plans submitted since the last meeting. Wright Farm housing development may be submitting a revised plan in the near future.

EAC Lecture Series - Plans are being made for a winter lecture series that might include plant propagation and LMT Bird Town.

Tree City USA – On November 9, 2024 LMT celebrated its First Arbor Day. There was a tree planting ceremony that honored all Twp. Employees and volunteers. Local dignitaries gave speeches about the environmental benefits associated with tree plantings. This celebration was the last requirement in LMT's quest to become a Tree City USA. All agreed that the day was a huge success.

Open Space Recommendations and Ballot Referendum – The Board of Supervisors voted at their July 17, 2024 meeting to place this Referendum on the ballot for the upcoming November 5th election. The referendum passed easily with approx. 15,100 yes votes and 6,800 no votes. A 4.4 acre parcel of undeveloped land along Buck Creek was purchased by LMT for \$100,000 in October.

EAC and Township Newsletters – Mr. Roden reported that the next newsletter will report on the recent Arbor Day ceremony, the January 11th EAC recycling event, Single Trash Hauler issue, and Stormwater Management.

Odds and Ends – Mr. Bray and Mr. Dresser will be meeting with Harris Nowotarski (County Forester) on LMT Heritage trees in early December.

Steve Merkel wants to work with community partners and MS4 on how to manage issues associated with Silver Lake. Mr. Bray suggested he get in touch with Cathleen Connally, the Mgr. of the County Watershed Assoc.

With no further business to discuss, the November 14, 2024 EAC meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be an in-person meeting on December 12, 2024 at 6PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

James J. Bray, Chair