

Lower Makefield Township  
Environmental Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes for the December 12, 2024

Present: In Person Alan Dresser, Soumya Dharmavaram, Paul Roden , Kevin Gallen, Cheryl Coffee

On-Line Virtually: Dominique Mitchell

The first order of business was the approval of the Minutes from the November 14, 2024 Meeting Alan Dresser made the motion to approve the Minutes, Paul Roden accepted the Motion and they were approved unanimously.

The EAC's new member, Cheryl Coffee, was welcomed to the group. She gave a brief description of her professional experience. She has worked 25+ years in the environmental consulting field (all media) and is currently Director of Sustainability for a private equity firm. Recycling, waste reduction, sustainability, and waste hauling are of special interest.

**2024 Long Range Tree Plan:** Alan Dresser said that we have approximately about \$300,000 in the Tree Bank. He will encourage the Township to set up an aggressive plan for planting trees in the Spring and Fall in 2025.

**Recycling:** The next Styrofoam, Wine Cork, Alkaline, & Plastic Prescription Medicine Bottle Recycling Event will be on Saturday, January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025 from 10:00 am to 12 noon. It will take place at the LMT Township Building.

The LMT Township is sponsoring an Electronic & Electrical Waste Recycling Day on Saturday, Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>, from 9:00 a.m., to 12 noon in the Parking Lot of the LMT Swimming Pool. Anything with an electrical cord except Refrigerators will be accepted. There will be a fee for TV and Computer and Monitors. No light bulbs, fluorescent tubes, or monitors.

**Single Trash Hauler Analysis:** A document entitled "Options for Trash Collection in Lower Makefield Township" has been drafted. The report examines possible changes to LMT's current collection system and makes recommendations for improvements. This report will be presented to the BOS early next year, possibly on January 15<sup>th</sup> 2025. The Report is roughly 10 pages with 150 pages of exhibits of ordinances & policies from other Townships in Bucks County.

**LMT Bird Town:** Jeanne Bray is our liaison with Bird Town, USA

**Update on Land Use Plans:** No new major developments on Land Development except that a Sketch Plan was submitted to the Board of Supervisors and Zoning Board for 16 units near the Regency Subdivision in LMT. It needs more work before it can be formally submitted for final approval by the Zoning and Board of Supervisors. Members of the Regency Development have lots of concerns about this new Land Development Proposal.

**Single Use Plastic Bag Ban:** Single Use Plastic Bag Ban is still being discussed by the members of the Board of Supervisors for possible decision by the Board in February of 2025 after dealing with an ordinance on adopting a Single Trash Hauler Ordinance.

**Open Space Ballot Referendum:** The Referendum on the Nov.3, 2024 General Election Ballot passed by a vote of 15,112 yes to 6,911 no (68.6 % to 31.4 %). This Referendum allows the Board of Supervisors to borrow up to \$15 million dollars to purchase any available land to preserve it as open space to protect it from development. This Referendum also allows the Township to use some of the borrowed funds to remediate any of the land purchased to remove any environmental contamination.

**EAC Lecture Series:** Possibility of finding a speaker to talk about Single Use Plastic Bag Ordinances and the impact on Plastic Pollution for Next Year was discussed. Alan Dresser will forward that suggestion to Jim Bray for the next meeting.

**Tree City USA:** The application for LMT joining Tree City, USA is now complete with our celebration of Arbor Day on Nov.8, 2024 and our Resolution in support of Arbor Day. Part of the Arbor Day celebration included the tree planting in front of the Township Building.

**Environmental Stewardship Award for 2024 –** The winners of the 2024 EAC Environmental Stewardship Award are The Environmental Green Team and the Key Club at Pennsbury High School and Naima Doraiswamy whose vision has made this project a reality. These groups have been collecting plastic prescription medicine bottles (some of which come from the EAC recycling events), cleaning them and sending them to Central America for reuse and, so far, have collected close to 3000 of these pill bottles.

**Odds & Ends:**

**OpenSpaceInstitute.org:** is a new website devoted to preserving open space in America. It started in New York City and is advocating for the preservation of open space, not only in the 5 Boroughs of NYC, but all over the country as well. It's aim is to create similar organizations all over the country by sharing legislation, policies and regulations.

Respectfully Submitted by Paul Roden