

LOWER MAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
AUGUST 14, 2025 MEETING MINUTES

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

Also in attendance was Jason Blygh, LMT resident.

Mr. Bray called the August 2025 EAC meeting to order at 6 pm. The first item on the agenda was review and approval of the July 10 EAC meeting minutes. Mr. Bray called for a vote, Mr. Roden approved, all were in favor and the minutes were approved.

2024 Long-Range Master Tree Plan and Bradford Pear Trees – Mr. Bray explained that he was asked to attend a Township meeting and make suggestions for replacements for the invasive Bradford Pear trees near the LMT Township Building and Bucks County Library that were recently removed. At that meeting a decision was made to recommended Red Sunset Maples which have great Fall color, are very hardy, long lasting, and grow to 60 -70 ft. tall. Twp. Mgr. D. Kratzer asked that the EAC approve the planting of these trees so that Mgr. Kratzer could report to the BOS that the EAC had recommended this planting. Accordingly, the EAC unanimously approved a motion to replace the Bradford Pear Trees with Red Sunset Maples.

Guest Jason Blygh Comments – Mr. Blygh attended the EAC meeting as part of a requirement to earn an Eagle Scout Badge dealing with storm water management. Several members of the Council explained to Mr. Blygh some of the pertinent projects the EAC had worked on during the past several years and invited him to attend future meetings. Mr. Blygh stated that the information he received would be helpful to him and he thanked the EAC for taking the time to respond to his request.

EAC Event Signs – Mr. Bray reported that the EAC has new, professionally-made event signs that will replace the hand-written ones. He will be picking them up tomorrow.

Recycling – The next Styrofoam+ Recycling event is scheduled for November 1, 2025 from 10 am - noon at the LMT Township Building.

Review Proposed Chicken Ordinance - EAC Liaison John Lewis was unable to make the meeting. Mr. Bray will follow up with Mr. Lewis on the status of the proposed ordinance.

Bird Town PA – On August 17, friends and members of the EAC installed three bird boxes which had been donated to Lower Makefield Township by the PA Game Commission. These houses will, hopefully, be used by Prothonotary Warblers next spring. The location is near the Canal

Widewaters Area is an ideal place for the Warblers homes as they prefer to nest in wooded, swampy areas.

- LMT's Bird Town PA is hoping to collaborate with Yardley Borough's EAC and Bird Town PA on presenting activities aimed at children soon.
- Yardley Borough is generously sharing their space with LMT's Bird Town PA on September 20, 2025, at Harvest Day.

Open Space – The status of LMT's proposal to create a native plant meadow in the 5 acre open space area bordering the Regency Development is still being discussed.

Land Use Reviews – Mr. Dresser reported the Township Solicitor still hasn't determined a position on the Dogwood Drive development timeline issue.

Proposed Single Use Plastics Ban – This Information Seminar will be open to the public. It is scheduled for November 8 at 10 am and will be held at the LMT Administration Building. Elen Snyder and Elaine McCarron, who were largely responsible for bringing the Single Use Plastic Bag Ban to Newtown Township, as well as Faran Savitz, of PennEnvironment, will be providing us with information and answering our questions.

Info on RF-100 Program – Mr. Bray noted that LMT has been a member of Cool Cities for 12 years and will send a copy of the signed resolution to Mr. Gallen. Mr. Gallen will try to determine if there are similarities in both programs and relay this info to the EAC next mtg.

EAC Lecture Series – Mr. Gallen recommended that we consider looking into the issue of waste that comes with our current tendency toward "Fast Fashion". He suggested it might be an interesting topic for a future lecture.

Updated Publicity List – Mrs. Mitchell is working on getting additional names for our publicity list and will be looking to HOAs as a possible source.

EAC and Township Newsletters – The Proposed Single Use Plastics Ban, the LMT Bird Town table at Harvest day and our November 1st Styrofoam+ recycling event will be three of the subjects on Mr. Roden's upcoming newsletter.

Odds and Ends – There was a short discussion about the possibility of putting a bike rack next to the Administration Building and the possibility of installing electric car chargers at a strategic location in the Twp. Also, the question was raised as to what the status is of the proposed EAC Tree Bank Ordinance change. That will be a topic for our next meeting.

With no further business to be discussed, Mr. Bray called the meeting to an end at 7:07 pm. The next meeting will be held on September 11, 2025 at 6 pm, in person.

Respectfully Submitted, James J. Bray, Chair