

LOWER MACUNGIE TOWNSHIP
Environmental Advisory Council
January 9, 2023 MEETING MINUTES

1. Call Meeting to Order, 7:00 p.m.

Vice Chair Spampinato called the meeting to order for Chris who was absent due to illness.

2. Roll Call

Chairman – Chris Sacchi–NOT PRESENT

Vice-Chairman – Rob Spampinato-PRESENT

Secretary – David Bonette-PRESENT

Member – Jack Breiner-NOT PRESENT

Member – Ellen Iobst-PRESENT

Member - Planning Commission Representative – Robert Rust–NOT PRESENT

Member – Becky Short-PRESENT

Parks & Recreation Commission Representative – New representative requested

Also present: Maury Robert, BOC; Zach Graves, LM Township

The Vice Chair expressed thanks to Maury and Zach for their steady attendance at EAC.

3. Announcements / Communications

- 3.1 Appointment letters from Board of Commissioners received on Thursday (1/5/2023). Ellen has been reappointed for a full term. Election of Vice Chair: Ellen nominated Rob to serve as Vice-Chairperson for the year. Becky 2nd. Unanimous approval. Election of Secretary for the Year: Ellen nominated Jack in absentia as our first choice for Secretary. Becky 2nd. Jack was approved pending his consent. Dave will serve again if Jack declines.
- 3.2 Next township newsletter – Dave has submitted the piece on plastics which all have approved..
- 3.3 State EAC online meeting February 25, 2023. Rob and Ellen plan to attend online. Zach will forward all reimbursement requests. (<https://weconservepa.org/event/eac-network-conference/>). Also, Becky will forward the invitation for the Lehigh Valley EAC 1/19 to us.
- 3.4 Thanks to Becky Short for keeping up with Bare Root tree program –she attended the meeting today.
- 3.5 MS4 and water-related issues – Zach asked for feedback on future newsletter ideas. Ideas discussed: Does sewage overflow from storm drains into the Little Lehigh during storms? Issue of flood waters and easements. Maintenance of clogged drains. Repair of corrugated steel pipes from 1960's & 70's.

4. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings

December 12, 2023–Ellen moved to approve. Becky 2nd. Minutes were approved.

5. Committee Matters

- 5.1 Planning Commission – Maury. Top Golf: Township is rewriting Zoning

notes in order to approve 175' poles. Lighting: Hours being discussed; will go late into the night. Rob said it should be dark-sky compliant. Becky said we should be looking at impact on birds. Also still under discussion: Big pipe in railroad underpass for apartments proposed near Wehrungs. Ellen questioned whether there is anything we can do to improve coordination between EAC and Planning Commission in addition to Bob's attendance. For example, should EAC send a rep to Planning Meetings? Maury indicated all plans are posted online. Maury indicated that Planning would still like a tree list from us for developers; Rob will review with Chris.

5.2 Parks & Recreation – New P&R board members have been appointed.

5.3 Open Space & Natural Resources

5.4 Trees – Chris Sacchi and Rob Spampinato – Arbor Day location and trees.

Date is April 28. Should emphasis be more functional or more ceremonial? Ellen said community involvement is a priority. Becky S. recommends participating in Tree Pennsylvania <https://treepennsylvania.org/> bareroot tree program for spring. (Will not be ready by Arbor Day.) They require consultation with Extension forester. Maury indicated there is a \$200k budget for trees along the Brandywine Swale. Could we combine with our event? Zach's concern is getting closeout with Conservation District.

5.5 Bird Town.

5.6 Community Education & Awareness Including MS4 Activities (Facebook, LMT Township Newsletter, and others)--No recent Facebook posts. Rob needs EAC Member involvement. Could be a link to any environmental article. He will include the plastics article. Wants to post weekly.

6. Other Business

6.1.1 LMT property – farm leases. Recommendation to consider leasing to new farmers, perhaps Community Supported Agriculture (CSA). Rob has sent e-mails but no response. Dorney Tract: Becky proposes signs saying: "*Land Preserved Thanks to Lower Macungie Township Voters.*" Rob will talk to Chris about. Question of size and where to put them was discussed.

6.1.2 Penn's Meadow. Dave reported it was mowed about Jan. 1. Everything was cut except in the wet basins, where there are some pears, but it would be very difficult for EAC Members to cut. According to Zach, the township could possibly handle it, but they are focusing on another basin which is much worse.

6.1.3 LMT sustainability: no updates.

6.1.4 Community Days: Tuesday May 2. Becky will look into seed packets from last year's donor. Rob recommended wildflower mix. Dave and Ellen recommended kid stuff, e.g. Lantern fly 'crowns'. Ellen will look into a bigger sign for our table and will talk to Renea about reprinting our brochure.

7. New Business

6.1.1 Follow-up on 2023 EAC goals and activities: Postponed in the absence of our Chairperson.

8. Adjournment