

**LOWER MACUNGIE TOWNSHIP**  
**Environmental Advisory Council**  
**February 13, 2023 MEETING AGENDA**

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

**2. Roll Call**

Chairman – Chris Sacchi

Vice-Chairman – Rob Spampinato

Secretary – David Bonette

Member – Jack Breiner

Member – Ellen Iobst

Member - Planning Commission Representative – Robert Rust

Member – Becky Short

Parks & Recreation Commission Representative – New representative requested

**3. Announcements / Communications**

- 3.1 Thanks to Rob Spampinato for chairing the January meeting.
- 3.2 Arbor Day Tree Planting event(s). Option 1: plant larger trees in a park or other public space as we have in the past. Select ~5-7 balled and burlapped trees appropriate to the park or other space selected. Order soon to check for availability. Coordinate planting with Stan Cupp. Option 2: Identify planting location for trees and selected shrubs, purchase a larger number of trees; purchase stakes and tree sleeves. Select a tree planting date and order the trees.
  - Recently have planted larger trees in parks or public spaces – if that’s what we want to do we should choose the location and trees e.g. Willow Lane/Sauerkraut Ln – previous planting location where community can see larger planting; we can also keep it less prominent but serving another role
  - Mill Creek Rd/Sauerkraut Ln as location for consideration
  - Another option is Camp Olympic – providing shade - EAC planted at Camp Olympic near the playground in the past and planted near the barn by the historic society to extend the plantings into the viewshed of the barn and historic society
  - The Dog Park near Spring Creek/Mill Creek would be good to plant trees
  - Work on decisions for locations and types of trees to be made at next meeting
  - Option 1: Larger trees at dog park
    - Would need something to wrap around trunks, not tree tubes, need to make sure we have all supplies before
  - Option 2: Smaller trees at a different location
- 3.3 Little Lehigh Watershed Stewards – Planting event on March 4, 2023
  - Guest Speaker: Paul Younger

- Conservation organization: Little Lehigh Watershed Stewards
  - Do plantings of trees and shrubs to help with health of watershed; hold cleanups of tributaries and Little Lehigh
- Spring Events
  - March 4 – Tree Planting 9-12 PM; S. of Mertztown Pike
  - Plant 45 trees; 5-7 gal. because of reduced maintenance; 5’ tubes
    - Sweet gum, black gum, sycamore, red maple, silver maple, Cyprus; swamp white oak
  - 20 Volunteers
- Previous plantings seem to be doing well in some locations south of the creek; 4-5” in diameter from whip plants
- No shrubbery is planned to be included; would attract pollinators and can do from stakes driven into the soil next to the stream and the plants would be established
  - Go to an elderberry tree, trim them off, drive them in a distance and you might get a couple that take and establish
- What are goals of planting?
  - Shade coverage along creek; weaken some of invasive species underneath canopy; try to establish riparian buffer
  - Will cool waters and trout may be attracted; could bring in Trout Unlimited
- Stream Cleanup
  - March 18 – Brookside to Wildcherry – maybe further depending on number of volunteers
  - LMT Will pick up bags placed along path

3.3 State EAC meeting online meeting February 25, 2023. (<https://weconservepa.org/event/eac-network-conference/>). We have paid for registration for such meetings in the past. Will follow up about how to reimburse members for participation.

- Ellen and Becky are signed up and attending different breakout sessions

3.4 Community Days – select a native plant species, purchase seeds in bulk and package and label them. Contact sources of items to give away; should we purchase any items, e.g., envelope openers one year.

- May 2, 2023
- As Community Days event approaches we will talk about staffing the table and what we would want
- All spotted lanternfly stuff was good; pamphlet rack was helpful
- Becky and Zach working on contacting seed companies
- We could get envelope labels with ID of plant, info, advice, and apply that to coin envelope package

- Becky heard from Prairie Moon Nursery – would send purple prairie clover but need to cover cost of shipping
    - If non-native that could be an issue
- 3.5 MS4 and water-related issues – LMT Priority – Zach Graves has reported on MS4 activities.
- Swale Project
    - Most of grading is done, topsoil to be dealt with, tree/shrub planting in spring and a final seed; maintenance period
  - Pollution Reduction Projects
    - In design phase; been out with engineer

#### **4. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings**

January 9, 2023

Minutes approved as written; Bob Rust abstains

#### **5. Committee Matters**

5.1 Planning Commission – Bob Rust

Bob Rust’s last meeting here; effective the end of the month Bob is of the planning commission; no replacement/liaison named

Tomorrow is a big night, full schedule. Committee members thanked Bob for his years of service on EAC.

Commissioners Agenda – Thursday

- Jaindl development
  - Residential 8.5 DU/Acre; want to increase to 12 DU/Acre and Acreage be entire Acreage of the parcel; over 600 apartment units in 6 story buildings
  - Developer goes into Planning Commission and looks for approval and support when it goes in front of the Board of Commissioners
  - Jaindl wants to modify ordinance, get conditional use approved, finally go through subdivision and land ordinance
- 93 Acres acquired by LMT; selling 7.5 acres to Turnpike Commission at ~\$600k
- Signage for preserved land to be brought up at next meeting

5.2 Parks & Recreation – New representative in future.

5.3 Open Space & Natural Resources

5.4 Trees – Chris Sacchi and Rob Spampinato – Arbor Day location and trees, see above. Big trees as in past?

5.5 Bird Town. Sacchi must still follow up about Bird Town and having a representative at one of our meetings.

5.6 Community Education & Awareness Including MS4 Activities (Facebook, LMT Township Newsletter, and others)

- Draft floating around but need to look at revised article
- Becky to propose plan for speakers/speaker program

#### **6. Other Business**

6.1.1 Penn's Meadow, planting, mowing, weed concerns in other LMT lands/parks/trails/ riparian zones. Ways to address invasive species in township owned properties.

- If not the property owner and doing it in publicly owned spaces you need a licensed applicator and work under their supervision; Dean Moore and his crew have licenses also

6.1.3 LMT sustainability; discussion of preliminary findings.

- Presentation available on YouTube through LMT <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AWD3c5f4Q2M>
- Should review independently and discuss any questions
- Stakeholder education plans

6.1.4 Community Days preparation: seed choice, packaging, things to attract residents to our table, e.g., Lanternfly 'crowns'.

## **7. New Business**

6.1.1 Follow-up on 2023 EAC goals and activities. Review of planning and goals. Please bring ideas and perspectives on progress to make in the next year. Link to our current Bylaws and the Ordinance creating EACs are included here.

- Goals will be revisited and formalized during next meeting
- Ellen to come to next plan with proposal based on conversations and minutes

## **8. Adjournment**

**Adjourned at 8:47; Becky moved to adjourn, seconded by Ellen**