

LOWER MACUNGIE TOWNSHIP
Environmental Advisory Council
March 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 – Vacant

Member – Becky Short

Parks & Recreation Commission Representative – New representative requested

3. Announcements / Communications

- 3.1 Arbor Day Tree Planting event(s): Friday April 28. Typically 5PM.
Arrange a scout flag ceremony. Other community or educational component? Goal is to plant larger trees in a park or other public space as we have in the past: first idea is in Spring Creek Estates Park (where the dog park is located); second idea is in the turf area near the swale at Sauerkraut and Mill Creek Road. Tree ideas. Also asked Stan Cupp if he has recommendations for parks, LMT owned public spaces. 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.
- Spring Creek Estates Park on Spring Creek Road is a possibility
 - One small unprotected tree is in the small dog park
 - One Norway Spruce and small trees are in/border large dog park
 - Not deciding on planting locations yet, but need to discuss if the Spring Creek location is correct for the planting
 - Have not heard from Stan Cupp yet if he has an opinion for tree planting locations
 - Once location is selected, we will place 5-7 on order
 - Planting Species
 - Honey locust – downside is fruit shed
 - Post signage and make contact with homeowners who border Dog Park
- 3.2 Little Lehigh Watershed Stewards – Stream Cleanup March 18: 9am-12pm between Brookside and Wild Cherry Lane. Contact Paul Younger in interested (e-mail sent separately with agenda).
- Post a “Thank You” to the LLWS after the event.
 - If attending, please let Paul Younger know
 - Chris will share EAC contact information with Paul

- 3.3 State EAC meeting online meeting February 25, 2023.
(<https://weconservepa.org/event/eac-network-conference/> . Ellen attended.
- Ellen and Becky attended
 - Ellen – overall a good meeting
 - focus on environmental justice
 - Breakout sessions followed – attended one on funding for Environmental issues, high dollars available, several ideas of projects that could receive funding (e.g. organic waste)
 - Access these funds after climate assessment is complete
 - Attended another session on energy reduction, not as valuable
 - Becky – attended different sessions
 - Heather Andrews – author on native plants and pollinators
 - Stormwater basin naturalization
 - Natives better for stormwater uptake
- 3.4 Community Days May 2, 2023 – distribute seeds that Becky has received as donations (do we want to purchase seeds of a selected species 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.
- At next meeting we will need to select times to man the EAC Table
 - Zack working on sign
 - 4-8 PM; groups of 2
 - To Distribute:
 - ~80 Seeds, maybe coin envelope with labels if seeds come in bulk
 - Becky has other pamphlets, tattoos, lanternfly items, tower of information
- 3.5 Thanks to Dave B. and Ellen I. for providing substantial input for Jenna Ulrich, the intern working on our community Climate Action Plan.
- Comments sent to Bruce Beitler
 - Focus on trees and their role as a component as carbon reduction impact
- 3.6 Thanks to Becky S. for her work in obtaining seed donations and for participating in plant workshops and conferences.
- 3.7 MS4 and water-related issues – LMT Priority – Zach Graves has reported on MS4 activities.

4. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings

February 13, 2023

February meeting minutes to be voted on next meeting along with March minutes

5. Committee Matters

5.1 Planning Commission – Maury Robert in place of Planning Commission Rep.

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.

- Tree list complete and sent to Nathan Jones
- Proposed meeting with Nathan Jones to discuss what we can do as EAC
- EAC would like to extend an invitation for Nathan to attend our meetings

5.5 Bird Town.

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

- Ellen is now an editor of the EAC Facebook Page

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.

- Conversion from detention basin to a meadow is a good example of what was done
- Swale conversion is another good example
- “When communities are developed, they must develop retention basins.” Can we ask designers to use principles of natural basins?

6.1.3 LMT sustainability; EAC input sent to Bruce Beitler (see below)

6.1.4 Community Days preparation: seed choice, packaging, things to attract residents to our table, e.g., Lantern fly ‘crowns’

- See Item 3.4 Above

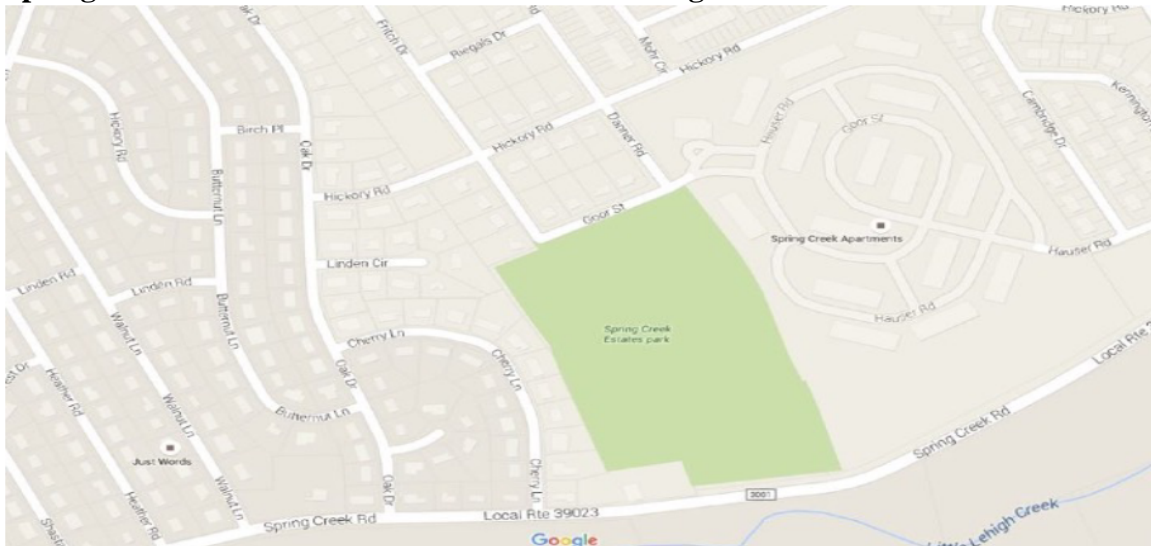
7. New Business

6.1.1 Follow-up on 2023 EAC goals and activities. Review of planning and goals. Next steps from earlier discussions.. Link to our current Bylaws and the Ordinance creating EACs are included here.

- Prioritization of 2023 Goals
 - Ellen – Recommend #2
 - Jack – Storm Water and Air Quality, Develop open space inventory and tree planting audits
 - Dave – Little Lehigh and Climate Action Plan but not until we see findings
 - Chris – Open spaces inventory and tree plantings; community education component of CAP will be a large role for us
 - Becky – Community Outreach and Participation, resource as residents
 - Rob – Community Outreach, Farm Leases
- Ellen to develop action items and point person

8. Adjournment – 8:44

Spring Creek Estates Park Location: Tree Planting



Input to Bruce Beitel from EAC

Comments from Environmental Advisory Council for DEP Climate Action Plan Initiative
– March 2023

Information for Ms. Jenna Ulrich, lead data collector and advisor for The Climate Action Plan

EAC members provided input that could be helpful to Ms. Jenna Ulrich regarding development of the Climate Action Plan for Lower Macungie Township.

1) Looking at the Township budget, by far our largest electricity expenditure is for **streetlights**. So we should study: to what extent are we using energy-efficient fixtures there? Do we need a program to move to more energy-efficient fixtures? Are there technological solutions to reduce the intensity of light later at night when there is less activity? What energy are we buying? Is it sustainable or fossil-fuel based?

The same questions should be asked for the Township's other energy purchases as well, such as electricity and heating fuel for our **buildings and facilities**.

2) Our **solid waste** contract with Waste Management Inc. represents a huge effort. According to WMI's website, they offer pioneering sustainability programs such as garbage trucks that run on methane repurposed from their landfills. Is Lower Macungie Township utilizing any of these programs? How can we utilize these programs to a greater extent in the future?

3) Can and should the Township provide public **charging stations** for electric vehicles? How can Federal money be tapped for these purposes? Can the Township start to convert some of its **fleet** to EV? Consider adding charging stations near the LMT Community Center or Administration Building.

4) Consider acquisition and use of battery powered tools and equipment for various jobs done regularly such as maintaining lawns at public parks.

5) How can the Township **centralize these carbon-reduction efforts and communicate them to the public**? Should a staff member be named Sustainability Officer? Should policies and/or ordinances be enacted to promote sustainable resource use with lower carbon output? Could a page be added to the Township website to publicize Jenna's report, along with action plans and progress towards our goals?

5) Develop a plan to get to zero solid waste to landfill at all township facilities. This could be used as a model for the companies and residence in our area for reapplication.

6) Fund a Compost Facility and System for Food Waste disposal in addition to the yard waste. (Delaware County has been doing some work in this area, that was presented at the PA EAC Conference. They were able to get a significant grant to help build the facility.)

7) Work with PPL and LMT to educate residents on simple ways to make your home more energy efficient to reduce energy consumption. Can there be incentives for home energy audits of homes and small businesses in LMT? In absence of such incentives can we list

8) Provide more safe walking paths to encourage walking versus driving to points of interest. Develop safe bicycle lanes to encourage bicycle use to get to points of interest.

9) Assess the current role of township trees in sequestering carbon; examine street trees, trees in parks, in riparian zones, and other public spaces. Make recommendations about the role and value of tree planting plans to sequester carbon in the township. Provide information through educational outreach to residents about the benefits of tree planting for reducing energy use in homes. Encourage homeowners to plant street trees in locations where trees have been removed.

Useful Articles:

(Davis CA) City's LED Retrofit Shows Need For Careful Lighting Choices

<https://www.darksky.org/citys-led-retrofit-shows-need-for-careful-lighting-choices/>

Home Energy Audits/ Assessments

<https://www.energy.gov/energysaver/home-energy-assessments>