

LOWER MACUNGIE TOWNSHIP
Environmental Advisory Council
MAY 10, 2021 MEETING MINUTES

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

2. Roll Call

Chairman – Chris Sacchi (present)

Vice-Chairman – Rob Spampinato (present)

Secretary – David Bonette (present)

Member – Hilary Mack (present)

Member – Ted Wells (present)

Member - Planning Commission Representative – Robert Rust (present)

Parks & Recreation Commission Representative – Marti Schwartz (excused absence)

3. Announcements / Communications

- 3.1 Arbor Day: April 30, 2021 – Chris thanked the many people who contributed to the event. Thanks to Rob Spampinato for stepping up to host the event as emcee. Chris will also thank Boy Scouts. Should the new trees have alligator bags? Chris will call Stan for trees to be mulched.
- 3.2 Penn’s Meadow naturalized area: EAC to take a tour May 22 9am.
- 3.3 Facebook page: Rob Spampinato publicized recent events. Dave Bonette has participated in meetings of the Friends of the Little Lehigh group. Planting activity was this past weekend. Dave gave a report. Rob wants to attend future events.
- 3.4 Connect again with Wildlands Conservancy. We have helped them before with planting projects. Ron Beitler has asked them for input on land acquisition possibilities such as Dorney property abutting Camp Olympic; Faith Church property; South Mountain.
- 3.5 MS4 and water-related issues – Zach Graves (not present)
- 3.7 Ron Beitler in attendance tonight: big initiative on land preservation coming soon: BOC looking to put Open Space Referendum on ballot for November. Could be used to fund Greenway Plan, adding to existing trail between Wild Cherry and Brookside. Could connect to Kratzer Farm. EAC can play role in building support for passage of referendum.

4. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings

April 12, 2021--Rob motion; Ted 2nd; approved; Secy will now submit to Renea

5. Committee Matters

5.1 Planning Commission – Bob Rust. Busy with many applications for new development. Most are environmentally sensitive. Bob reminds them of tree advisories. Chris will finalize tree list.

5.2 Parks & Recreation – Marti Schwartz (not present)

5.3 Open Space & Natural Resources -- not discussed

5.4 Trees – Rob and Chris will finalize Tree list. Two possible uses for plants on this list: stream restoration and rain gardens or other uses to support MS4

activities. Native plantings are not maintenance-free. Ron: Generally speaking, new larger developments should be required to establish HOA with responsibility for maintenance. Stone Hill Meadows off Gehman Rd is ideal model; has a 2 mile trail network. 70% is open space.

5.5 Bird Town--Audubon reorganizing; not much happening. Discussion of Tree City program; requires establishment of Shade Tree Commission.

5.6 Community Education & Awareness including MS4 Activities (Facebook, LMT Township Newsletter, and others); Chris to follow up re invasives and garden do's and don'ts; relations with LMT Garden Club discussed

6. Other Business

6.1. Old Business

6.1.1 Examine and update approved tree list sent by Nate Jones.

6.1.2 Other tree-planting projects--not discussed

6.1.3 Carbon reduction/Carbon neutrality goals for LMT. Dave Bonette presented; he supports goals for carbon reduction/neutrality following participation in EAC conference. Dave will follow up with Fred Z re previous efforts. Past concrete actions include: reduced energy use lighting in township buildings. LED traffic lights. Community Center is wired for EV charging station. Streetlights discussed--expensive to convert to LED but new subdivisions must utilize. Ron advises to check SW Lehigh Co plan to which we are signatory.

6.2. New Business

6.2.1 Applications for EAC Vacancy. The Council discussed applications submitted by Becky Short, Christine Hanna, George Doughty, Nicole Floramo and Rebecca Innes. Dave moved that we recommend appointing Becky Short to the vacancy, with Christine as a second choice. Rob seconded the motion. The motion carried. Chris will notify the BOC of our recommendations to fill the vacancy.

6.2.2 Consider upcoming priorities for environmental issues in LMT.

7. Adjournment