

LOWER MACUNGIE TOWNSHIP
Environmental Advisory Council
July 12, 2021 MEETING MINUTES

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

Chairman – Chris Sacchi
Vice-Chairman – Rob Spampinato
Secretary – David Bonette
Member – Hilary Mack (excused absence)
Member – Ted Wells (excused absence)
Member - Planning Commission Representative – Robert Rust
Parks & Recreation Commission Representative – Marti Schwartz (excused absence)
Township Staff Rep - Zach Graves

A quorum was declared.

3. Announcements / Communications

- 3.1 LMT Referendum for 0.15% fee for Open Space (earned income tax). Approved by BOC. Article with details in Morning Call (7/12/2021) Renea to check if EAC can advocate for it. To be put on September EAC agenda.
- 3.2 Dead and dying trees in woodlands/riparian zone surrounding Little Lehigh Creek. Former EAC member and longtime LMT resident Mike Siegel e-mailed regarding concerns about tree dams resulting from tree falls along and in the Little Lehigh. A discussion was held concerning pros and cons of removing fallen trees. We would only take action if danger is imminent.
- 3.3 Question about removal in riparian zone near Swabia along Sauerkraut. Must check with Lehigh County Authority to learn if this is work to clear right-of-way. Chris will get more detail from Scott A.
- 3.3 MS4 and water-related issues – LMT Priority – Zach Graves has reported on MS4 activities. No update.

4. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings

June 14, 2021 -- has not been distributed for review

5. Committee Matters

- 5.1 Planning Commission – Bob Rust. Township goal is to retain 25% of land as open space, ag or recreational. Projects reviewed: 1) Apartments at Macungie Ave and Indian Creek. 2) Buckeye Solar -- the Council supports installation of renewable energy; no known environmental issues with this proposal. 3) Rehab Facility at Minesite Rd.
- 5.2 Parks & Recreation – Marti Schwartz (not present)
- 5.3 Open Space & Natural Resources - no discussion
- 5.4 Trees – Chris Sacchi and Rob Spampinato - It was agreed that the list will be detailed to cover specific scenarios, e.g. different width verges. Chris & Rob will meet to finalize. Bob emphasized that the list is needed and the work will be

appreciated.

5.5 Bird Town - n/a

5.6 Community Education & Awareness Including MS4 Activities (Facebook, LMT Township Newsletter, and others) - Rob will work on publishing a recommended list of plants for township homeowners.

6. Other Business

6.1. Old Business

6.1.1 Examine and update approved tree list sent by Nate Jones. Consider adding or updating signs marking no-mow zones, Greenway management.

6.1.2 Arbor Day 2: plan for trees to plant on corner of Sauerkraut and Mill Creek Road. Select native tree species and size.

6.1.4 Other tree-planting projects

6.1.5 LMT sustainability/Low carbon future. Zach has distributed EAC Questionnaire to appropriate Township staff. Chris asked that they be given a deadline of Sept. 1. Zach said there are a number of issues with Community Center construction and that EV Charging Station is low priority. Dave reviewed the links Chris had provided. There are a number of paths we could follow and EAC should work to recommend a process to the BOC. The PA DEP offers a CAP (Climate Action Plan) process to 20 municipalities per year (next application deadline will be June 30, 2022). Other models include Sierra Club and Mayors' Conference. We should check to see what other towns in our planning group have done. Bethlehem recently presented its own custom plan; they went through a years-long process with a Council Resolution, an RFP issued by Public Works, public hearings led by two consultants, and final presentation by the Mayor et al. Chris will write Ron Beitler to gauge current level of interest on LMT BOC.

6.2. New Business

6.2.1 Consider upcoming priorities for environmental issues in LMT.

7. Adjournment

- Bob moved. Rob 2nd, approved