

Lower Frederick Township (LFT) Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) Meeting Minutes

MEETING DATE: May 30, 2019 - 7 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Rachel Hendricks
Monica Strawbridge
Ruth Heil
Jackie Oneil
Gary Bonner
Denise Finney

PUBLIC PRESENT: Marla Hexter & Larry Cohen

OLD BUSINESS

Review and approval of April meeting minutes:

- April minutes were approved, and Ruth will submit them to Bonnie for publication.

Bylaws:

- Members reviewed and refined a draft of bylaws drafted by Ruth Heil, modeled after those in the EAC handbook and bylaws of 2 local townships
- The EAC will request a copy of LFT's updated bylaws to ensure we are in sync with other LFT boards
- Verify ordinance numbers as well
- Hold EAC bylaws until we can apply EAC feedback and latest LFT bylaws to our draft
- Once updated, Ruth will circulate to EAC and request that our solicitor also review

EAC priorities:

- EAC will refine a draft of top priorities in next meeting, so they can be incorporated into a resident survey--each member should email their priorities to Rachel before next meeting
- We will then solicit feedback (to consider) from BOS and residents

NEW BUSINESS

EAC Member terms (selected randomly):

- 3-year: Rachel Hendricks, Ruth Heil, Monica Strawbridge
- 2-year: Warren Jacobs, Denise Finney
- 1-year: Jackie O'Neil, Gary Bonner

EAC web site:

- Ruth mentioned she might be able to build an LFT EAC web site—she will contact Terry and Bonnie regarding whether and how we may manage our own content, security requirements and possible funding.

Annual PA EAC Network Conference highlights shared by Jackie O’Neil, notably:

- Dept. of Agriculture and Penn State Extension still working to find & communicate the most viable management strategies for spotted lanternfly. It’s best to continue linking to their web site for the best source of updated information:
<https://extension.psu.edu/spotted-lanternfly>. The LFT web site has an information box and link on our current homepage, but we should provide updates as needed.
- **The major duties of an EAC are to:**
 - **Assist local officials in natural resource policies**, for instance:
 - Updating key ordinances (Use ConservationTools.org to find best-practice ordinances and environmental experts)
 - Resolving to transition to clean energy--there’s a Montco Ready for 100% Clean Energy meeting Jun 29 in Ambler. Our EAC, BOS, Park Board, Planning Commission are invited (max 6 from township); Marla & Jackie shared the invitation.
 - **Educate the public and officials on environmental issues**, for example regarding key issues like managing stormwater, protecting water/soil quality, recycling, etc.
 - **Advise townships on the impact of projects, policies and actions**, for instance we can use the DCNR mowing calculator to demonstrate estimated savings of natural stormwater basins and no-mow meadows
 - **Coordinate activities to physically improve the environment**, such as naturalizing & retrofitting LFT’s stormwater basins
- **Top EAC Challenges & Needs**
 - **Funding**
 - **Support getting grants** – DCNR can help
 - **Access to best practice ordinances, other model documents & domain experts**
 - ConservationTools.org – Library of model documents & experts
 - **Stormwater management – Residential, municipal, commercial**
- **Tips for working with Municipalities**
 - **Biggest & fastest success is to help township comply with MS4 regulations**, like:
 - **Public education**
 - **Public involvement**
 - **Illicit discharge detection & elimination (IDDE)**
 - **Construction runoff control**
 - **Post construction management**

- **Pollution preventions & good housekeeping for residents**
- **Appoint an EAC liaison from the board** (LFT will wait until we have 5 members)
- **Solve key problems for the municipality**, determined by interviews with BOS
 - **Draft sustainability challenges & objectives**, then refine with BOS & others
 - Help brand township, for ex: pesticide free, water friendly, native flora
 - **Prototype small “win” to demonstrate success** (like SW basin retrofit)
 - Jackie attended master watershed steward demo of basin retrofit in Skippack Township, and got instructions. LFT may borrow drill seeder from conservation district by contacting Jessica Buck to reserve it
 - **Align with state’s environmental priorities** (PA Climate Action Plan...)
 - **Form committees around EAC staff and residents’ passions and skills**
- **Examples of key accomplishments by local EACs:**
 - **Storm water basin & riparian buffer retrofits** (New Hanover...)
 - **Residential rain garden & rain barrel programs and funding** (Ambler...)
 - **Updated ordinances that impact environment** (Doylestown, New Hanover...)
 - **Educational meadows, rain & pollinator gardens, habitat boxes**
 - **Recycling events & education**
 - **Electric township vehicles and some public EV charging stations**
 - **Ready for 100% Transition to renewable energy resolution** (Phoenixville...)
 - **Purchase open space**

Meetings with other LFT boards and other EACs:

- Warren & Jackie both serve on Park Board, so they will be liaisons
- Rachael and/or others will attend BOS meetings
- Warren, Jackie and/or others will try to attend Planning Commission meetings
- EAC will request that we review all development plans in the review process
- Must still develop strategy for meeting with other EACs

PUBLIC COMMENT

Marla Hexter mentioned that Camp Hope teens and 10 supervisors will be available for volunteer work on a to-be-specified date in July. Marla will email the details to the EAC.

NEXT EAC MEETING

Agenda items mentioned for next EAC meeting(s):

- Share relevant updates from other LFT & EAC meetings
- Hone, refine and vote on EAC priorities—then incorporate into a resident survey and BOS review
- Form working group/task force(s) to review key ordinances & conduct environmental inventory
 - Rachel will request current map of LFT parks, open space & natural assets from LFT manager to assist in creation of our environmental inventory
 - Rachel will also bring a storm water basin evaluation form for our assessments
 - We can refer to best practice ordinance examples on ConservationTools.org
- Review updated EAC bylaws
- Discuss EAC website strategy
- Reminder to attend (and represent LFT at) Montco 100% Clean Energy Conference Kickoff
 - Sat. June 29, 2019 3:30-9:00pm
 - Location: From the Boot Restaurant in Ambler, PA
 - Register here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/montco100-clean-energy-kickoff-conference-tickets-62830240942>

Logistics for next EAC meeting:

- Next meeting Monday June 24 7PM at LFT Township Building
- Jackie will be away, so Denise will write, distribute and submit June minutes

Minutes respectfully submitted by Jackie O'Neil