

CHESTERFIELD TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

June 23, 2020

Chairperson Romeu called the meeting of the Chesterfield Township Environmental Commission to order a 7:05PM. The Open Public Meetings Act Statement was read and compliance noted.

Present Nancy Scarafile, Nicole Bencivengo; Karl Braun; Rita Romeu, Jane Ryan; F. Gerry Spence; Denise Koetas Dale, Township Liaison. Absent: Sara Dyson

MINUTES

May 26, 2020

A motion was made by Mr. Spence second by Mr. Braun to approve the May 26, 2020 meeting minutes. All were in favor with the exception of Ms. Ryan who abstained; motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

Tree City USA Bulletin

PSEG-Application for Flood Hazard Area Individual Permit Extension

Mr. Braun questioned how they are going to handle this? The notice was not specific, He would like to know who they are going to control the right of way and what materials they plan on using. He will send a memo to the secretary and she will then forward it to The Township Committee.

PLANNING BOARD APPLICATIONS

None

DISCUSSION

Pipeline Update

Ms. Romeu updated the board on what she knows at this point. She was contacted by the homeowner of the house that was damaged in Upper Freehold. She went to her house and saw firsthand the damage. The stream in the back of the house was a grey color, she took samples so that she could have it tested. Mayor Liedtka and the Township Attorney are having meetings with NJNG and also having series of inspections from DEP. The work on Rt. 528 is in progress, they violated the work hours on the first day; the county was notified. There will be 4 horizontal drillings here in Chesterfield, the traffic circle, Sucker Run, near Belinda's house and Harrison Road. Ms. Scarafile stated that they use water to cool down the drill, Ms. Romeu thinks that other chemicals are also used. Open box trenching would be much safer because they don't need to drill under streams. Mr. Braun mentioned the concern of the water quality. Ms. Romeu stated that 4 years ago we did our due diligence and did testing.

Stream Testing

Ms. Romeu stated that the EC will be testing Blacks Creek in two places, On Sykesville Road near the Bibus Farm and on Harrison Road off of Rt. 528. She believes a proposal for a purchase order was already approved by the Township Committee.

Algae in the ponds

The letter that Ms. Scarafile wrote was given to the Township Committee. Ms. Koetas-Dale said that Troy said that the pumps are broke again and clogging up, he is looking into getting better quality ones. Ms. Romeu said that because they are so bad now that they can't do conservative light treatments. Mr. Braun said that copper selfing can work quickly also Alum is a natural material and makes a difference on a regular basis. Rita will talk to the Committee at the next meeting.

Education Session

Ms. Bencivengo set a date of July 10, 2020 at 7:00pm. The subject will be baby wildlife. The secretary will do a flyer and post it on Facebook, Nextdoor and the website.

Other educational sessions

The board talked about people's response to snakes. Ms. Scarafile said that something should go onto the website, Nextdoor and Facebook to educate the residents and that the snakes won't hurt anyone.

Update on mowing by the retention ponds

The board requested that no mowing be done for a number of reasons. Ms. Romeu spoke to Mayor Liedtka, he will speak to Troy to ask the Landscaping Company to let it grow in.

Natural Research Inventory

Mr. Braun suggested we keep it on the agenda. The board suggested getting together and hold a special meeting to discuss this. The subcommittee is Ms. Ryan, Mr. Braun, Ms. Romeu, Ms. Scarafile and Ms. Koetas-Dale.

Tree Keepers

Ms. Scarafile asked Ms. Koetas-Dale to check to see if the bag worms have been sprayed in Charlotte Rogers Park. In regard to the street trees being removed and replace. Ms. Koetas-Dale stated that residents that want to remove the trees due to the roots damaging their sidewalks and also ones that have died, if they want to replant the Township Committee suggested that the EC get involved to help the residents with the proper type of tree that could be planted. Ms. Scarafile will put together something to inform the residents that the EC would be willing to help them. Ms. Ryan stated she would like to do some research before she suggested a certain type to replace with.

In regard to the Ash Trees, last year Ms. Scarafile and Ms. Ryan put flyers on the doors of those residents that have Ash Trees and what they could do. Ms. Romeu suggested the EC do an updated inventory to include the Township roads.

Beaver wire wrapping

Ms. Romeu stated that there was miss communication and DPW removed all the wire not just the trees that were damaged by the wire. DPW has replaced some wire but not all. The paint that was used on some trees as opposed to wire as an experiment worked. Ms. Romeu stated that the SEWAL group asked to help with a project over the summer. She will reach out to see if they would like to wrap and also paint the trees. Ms. Koetas-Dale suggested the EC ask the Township Committee to pay for the supplies. She suggested that the EC come to the next Township Meeting to talk about it.

NOT ON THE AGENDA

None

INVITATION FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Belinda Blazic 228 Bordentown Chesterfield Rd. When the NJNG drilling occurs near her home she would like to be notified so that she can be there. She is concerned about the tree that is close to her house. She asked if the EC hears anything about when she would like to know.

Hearing no further public comment, the public portion was closed.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on a motion was made by Mr. Spence second by Ms. Romeu to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Aggie Napoleon, Secretary