

CHESTERFIELD TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

September 22, 2020

Chairperson Romeu called the meeting of the Chesterfield Township Environmental Commission to order a 7:00PM. The Open Public Meetings Act Statement was read and compliance noted.

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

MINUTES

July 28, 2020

A motion was made by Mr. Spence second by Ms. Scarafile to approve the July 28, 2020 meeting minutes. All were in favor, motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

PLANNING BOARD APPLICATIONS

None

DISCUSSION

Progress report on beaver plan

Ms. Scarafile stated that trees have been re-wired that needed it and enlarged wire around small trees. Trees near the fishing pond had corrugated pipe around them so Mr. Braun and herself removed the pipe and wired the trees. Also by Millers pond and the detention pond corrugated pipe was removed and wired. SEWA group has done a lot of wiring and painting around the Harness Pond area. There is some painting left to do, DPW will get the paint and Ms. Koetas-Dale offered to help paint.

Spotted lantern fly

There have been a lot of reports from residents seeing them. Ms. Romeu spoke to Eugene Fuzzy, Deputy Mayor of Bordentown and also on the EC board, he has been in touch with Rutgers in regard to doing a zoom webinar. Ms. Romeu suggested we join with them and invite the residents to get educated on the spotted lantern fly. Mr. Sahol stated the more info we get out the better. Squishing them is the best thing we can do. Mr. Sahol will draft something for Facebook and the EC can put it on Nextdoor.

Update on Algae

Overall the ponds look ok, the treatment is working. The problem is still with the pumps. The Township should still do the same treatment next year. Troy has been looking into solutions, most of the algae is being caused by the geese, he would like to get a

management plan together before the Spring. Ms. Romeu suggested getting out information to educate the residents in regard to proper types of fertilizer will help as opposed to using dogs. Ms. Koetas-Dale suggested putting the information in the bags that will be distributed by SEWA to all residents.

Fertilizer information to residents

Mr. Sahol stated that a storm water pollution prevention management plan needs to be developed and be inserted into the Municipal Code that will require us to implement storm water pollution control planning training to the residents. Mr. Sahol suggested designing a calendar and on each month put information this way the residents see it each month on what they can do to help. Ms. Koetas-Dale suggested putting the calendar in the bags. Ms. Koetas-Dale stated that the bags are being donated.

Dog proposal for geese

The EC turned in a mowing plan to the Township. Ms. Romeu will send it to Troy. Ms. Scarafile checked with Penn State and they had some recommendations, ask the residents not to feed them; put more brush and trees so the geese can't see the ponds. She does not agree with using dogs because it will cause a disruption with the birds habitat.

Green Team reusable shopping bags

This has been put off due to COVID. EC agreed to donate \$250.00 to have a logo on the bag, Ms. Romeu will finalize with Wendy.

Anti-litter campaign by Green Team

Ms. Scarafile stated that the Green Team wants to have a contest with a prize such as a car magnet for the winner. The campaign is to target Old York Village, the members of the Green Team notice a lot of garbage everywhere. SEWA and the Green Team had a cleanup day in August. Contribution for the magnets will come from the EC, Mr. Sahol will look into what line item. Mr. Sahol suggested having a program in school to get the information home to the parents. He will look into this. Ms. Bencivengo suggested going right to a teacher and maybe tie it into a lesson plan.

Update on State plastic bag ban

This is moving fast, Ms. Romeu stated that ANJEC posted that it passed both bodies, Sayan stated that he doesn't see the bill on an agenda yet for the state. He will keep the board posted

Roses

Mr. Sahol stated that the issue is either a rose rosette mite or with the decay deficiencies in the soil. The only way to know is to send out soil samples, we may have to contract out a lab to do the soil test. If it is soil then we can do amendments or if it is a mite we will need to minimize it. Either way DPW will need to remove the dead bushes or remove anything dead on a live bush. Mr. Sahol will look into this further to get to the bottom of the problem.

Eagles Scout Project

Andrew Sinay stated that he will be planting 19 trees on Harness Way and 2 on Recklesstown Way. He and Mr. Braun know why types of trees he wants. They will all be on the water side not the resident's side and will be on both sides of the sidewalk. There will be 7 Red Maple, 6 Sweetgum and 6 American linden trees. Mr. Sahol offered to help guide Andrew in developing a spending plan to get funding other than through the Municipal entities. Andrew would like to implement planting by late October and he has to let Chesterfield Gardens know a month in advance.

Tree Keeper Report

Ms. Scarafile stated that there are no spotted lantern flies or bag worms at Charlotte Rodgers Park. At Margerum Road park people are dumping mulch, branches and garbage in there. Troy went out there, DPW will clean it up. Troy spoke to the Chief of Police in the possibility of putting up a camera to catch illegal dumping.

Ms. Scarafile stated that Ms. Ryan said that at the old Municipal Building there are no Lantern flies however there is weed and ivy growth under the trees and maybe we can have another tidy up the park day.

Ms. Romeu stated that on Rt. 528 by the Turnpike, looks good not spotted lantern fly also the new Municipal building looks good, there is one tree that DPW is aware of that is dead. Mr. Sahol stated that North East of the parking lot there is a tree showing signs of bacteria oak leaf scorch

NOT ON THE AGENDA

Ms. Koetas-Dale and Mr. Sahol have been working on the Shade Tree Advisory Committee and will fully answer the needs of the Township. The board will be made up of 5 people, one from the Municipal staff (either Mr. Sahol or Troy); two from the EC and 2 from the Community with all with varying terms. With at least 2 should have at least 2 years' experience.

Mr. Sahol stated DPW is working on maintaining the trees in the development. Troy stated that there are 1,864 trees in the park strip with a little over 10% dead loss which is about 200 trees that need to be removed.

Ms. Romeu gave a quick update on the pipeline. There is still no approval from the County or DEP on the plan for the directional drilling. They are almost finished with Rt. 528 for as far as they could go before the roundabout and have moved to Rt. 664. The task force will be meeting soon.

Ms. Scarafile mentioned that there are 2 virtual seminars coming up. NJ Shade Tree Federation that we could earn CEU's. ANJEC Environmental Conference has 10 sessions coming up. Anyone that wants to attend let the secretary know.

Ms. Sahol is looking into expanding the recycling center to include electronics and textiles. Understanding the concerns of the residents having the yard closed on certain days however the DPW needs time to clean up before more can be brought in.

Mr. Sahol is in contact with a wholesale company willing to donate some plant materials. He would like to look into getting the stuff out to the residents. For example having a Chesterfield in Bloom project if we do it in the Spring.

INVITATION FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Romeu opened the meeting for public, hearing none the public portion was closed

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on a motion was made by Mr. Spence second by Ms. Scarafile to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Aggie Napoleon, Secretary