

CHESTERFIELD TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

July 27, 2021

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

Present Nancy Scarafile, Karl Braun, Rita Romeu, Sarah Dyson (7:09), F. Gerry Spence
Absent: Ms. Koetas-Dale; Jane Ryan

MINUTES

June 22, 2021

A motion was made by Mr. Braun second by Ms. Romeu to approve the June 22, 2021 meeting minutes. All were in favor, motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

PLANNING BOARD APPLICATIONS

No Application were submitted.

DISCUSSION

Composting Education Program

Ms. Scarafile stated that we have received a \$2,000.00 Grant. The Green Team is talking about how to proceed with the funds. They will meet next week to talk about the program. Ms. Romeu asked if there would be any online classes, Ms. Scarafile stated that if they do have class it would be in the fall and would be outside but there hasn't been any decisions made yet.

Harvest Fest

The Environmental Commission won't have a table this year and neither will the Green Team. Most of their team have gone back to college. They will discuss it further at their next meeting.

Oliva Way

Ms. Scarafile stated that Rutgers has advised us to mow in early spring to help re seed. Mr. Braun asked about vegetation and Goose control because in the spring it plays down the effectiveness to discourage the Geese. He stated that during the winter there could be some maintenance. He suggested possibly mowing every other year in the fall. Ms. Scarafile suggested talking about this on a pond to pond basis, Mr. Braun will look at the ponds in the fall then the board can come up with a maintenance strategy. Mr. Spence suggested clipping any small trees that are starting to grow, Ms. Scarafile said that Rutgers also stated that this way it doesn't interfere with stormwater runoff. Mr. Braun

suggested DPW take care of this, Ms. Scarafile will email Mr. Ulsher. Regarding the tick issue, Ms. Scarafile stated that there is 5 ft. of mulch towards the pond and beyond that is 5 ft. of mowed grass until the no mow zone. In regard to the fishing pier, Ms. Scarafile talked to DPW and they had the landscaper cut the grass so it is now open. In regard to the benches they were placed there by residents and therefore not Township property.

Treekeepers/Tree Inventory

Ms. Scarafile stated that there are dead pine trees in Charlotte Rogers Park and she will ask DPW to remove them. No spotted lantern flies were spotted. In regard to the girdled trees, the DEP is working with the property owner to have them removed on the cost of the property owner. Mr. Braun on behalf of the Environmental Commission will draft a letter to DEP stating the owner should be liable for all the trees that need to be removed and restored. Mr. Braun stated that the juvenile spotted lantern fly is much smaller and quicker and hard to spot.

Shade Tree Board Update

No update

Sustainable

Ms. Scarafile stated that 50 more points are needed, Ms. Romeu will work on her part and will get back to everyone that needs to look at what they've already done and who may need to update.

ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Mr. Braun stated in regard to the maintenance at Margerum Park on the road side by the sign has all cat brier and he suggests we ask DPW to mow that area. The trail on Crosswicks Creek to the ice house, a tree fell down and he suggests we ask DPW to remove it. Ms. Scarafile will send a note to Mr. Sahol and Mr. Ulsher.

PUBLIC COMMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Spence second by Ms. Romeu to open the meeting for public comment

Viraf Mohta – 40 Olivia Way informed the board that there is a lot of trash in and around the Olivia Way Pond. It's not visible from the road however the trash is caught in the vegetation. He sent photos to the board. He also stated that the air rater in the pond doesn't work 20-30% of the time, at least 2-3 days a week it is off. He spoke to Mr. Ulsher and he was informed that the motor was burnt out caused by a plastic bag that was caught in the motor. He is also concerned with the vegetation growing up inside the ponds and the increase of mosquitos this year. Ms. Scarafile stated that possibly put together a Green Team crew to clean up the trash.

Anil Katragadda – 26 Olivia Way. Asked the board if in the Fall when the ponds are mowed would the bushes inside the ponds also be included. Ms. Scarafile stated she would have to look into that and if there's an issue she will talk to Mr. Ulsher who should relay it to the Black Lagoon Company that maintains the ponds for the Township.

Mr. Mohta asked if there was a plan to remove the large bushes on the corners of the ponds. Mr. Braun stated that the Environmental Commission will look into this and will try to keep the balance with the goose issue and water quality.

Hearing no further public comment, a motion was made by Mr. Spence second by Ms. Romeu to close public comment, all in favor, motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on a motion was made by Mr. Spence second by Ms. Dyson to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 7:41 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Aggie Napoleon, Secretary