

# **CHESTERFIELD TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

**MARCH 23, 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, Jane Ryan, Rita Romeu, F. Gerry Spence, Sarah Dyson (7:27), Ms. Koetas-Dale.

## **MINUTES**

February 23, 2021

A motion was made by Mr. Spence second by Ms. Ryan to approve the February 23, 2021 meeting minutes. All were in favor, motion carried.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

Arbor Day Flyer  
Timely Tips Flyer

## **PLANNING BOARD APPLICATIONS**

No Application were submitted. The February 16, 2021 approved minutes were distributed to the board members.

## **DISCUSSION**

Memo regarding Sykesville Road development

Mr. Braun put together a memo to the Planning Board with the concerns from site erosion to what trees are left. There was a list of things that need to be addressed. We are waiting for a response from the Professionals.

Warehouse Site

The Historic Society presented some ideas on how to move the historic home and build a road around it. The house is very fragile and on the National Registry. The warehouse is proposed to be placed on top of wetlands and the hope that DEP does the research. Ms. Koetas-Dale asked the board if they had any questions that she will relay to the Township Committee. Mr. Braun asked about the waste water, Ms. Koetas-Dale informed the board that the company has their own waste water plant on site. Mr. Braun stated that the discharge to the creek could be an issue.

Tree keepers

Ms. Ryan suggested putting together a group like in the past to clean up around the trees at the Old Municipal Building walking track. It was suggested that the EC put together a work session. A large tree came down between the storage shed and the park that should

be replaced with 2 pine trees, a little screening between the storage area and the walking path would be nice.

Ms. Scarafile requested the pine in Charlotte Rogers Park be replaced, she will write a memo to the Township with the request. She suggested checking with the Township regarding a couple of trees by the monument that were knocked down by a car accident a couple of years ago, Ms. Koetas will talk to Mr. Sahol and Mr. Ulsher about that.

Ms. Romeu reported a few trees are dead along the turnpike, however the Turnpike Authority is responsible for that area, Ms. Koetas-Dale will ask Mr. Sahol if Mr. Romeu can reach out to the Turnpike.

Ms. Scarafile would like to meet with the Shade Tree Commission and have each of those members assigned to an area to look over.

Ms. Ryan stated that at the dog park on Fenton Lane around the walking track towards the front there are trees with odd gouges in them, she is not sure how the damage was done. She will circulate pictures, Ms. Koetas-Dale will show them to Mr. Ulsher to see if he knows.

### No mow project

The board purchased 10 signs a week ago, Ms. Scarafile called the sign company and was informed they should be produced tomorrow. When they are received Mr. Ulsher will put them up and an education flyer will be put on social media for the residents.

### Sustainable

The Green Team will meet later this week to identify most projects, they have 60 points so far. By the end of the week they should have more points submitted. Everything needs to be done by June.

### Arbor Day

A white pine was donated by Chesterfield Gardens (Osman Nursery) which has been received and planted by the Municipal Building by DPW. The tree is 1 ½ inch in size

### Meadow at Municipal Building

Mr. Braun stated that the idea is to reduce the area for maintenance which has been started there will be more vegetation added but it's a good running start. It was suggested that any leftover seedlings could be planted there.

### Fertilizer Flyer

Ms. Romeu has left messages with no response from Rutgers, she will do a follow-up.

### Shade Tree Board

Ms. Koetas-Dale will have a report for next month.

### Grant Writing Seminar

Ms. Koetas-Dale mentioned that Sustainable NJ offers grants for 20,000; 10,000 and 2,000. Ms. Koetas-Dale, Ms. Scarafile and Mr. Sahol attended a work shop. Mr. Sahol stated he would help with writing a grant. In looking into getting 2,000 grant the board

would need to decide what project to go with either the meadow or sustainable. Mr. Braun suggested a public arboretum.

### Water Testing and Pipeline

The Horizontal Directional Drilling was started at Sucker Run on 528 by the compressor station on the second day they had an inadvertent return. The Inspector came right out and they did self-report the incident to the DEP. There is some criticism that they waited a few hours after it was cleaned up to report it. The Township needs to keep a close eye on this. They have completed most of the HDD's there are a few more in North Hanover that need to be done.

The Task Force will continue to do the water quality testing, there is a plan for this year to do air quality testing. They had a meeting with Trans Co for the purpose of giving the Township data on the blow downs. So far only one test has been done. The Task Force wants the data broke down, a second request has been sent and everyone has been cc'd on the letter and at the meeting they stated they would give the data. Mr. Dancer has sent a letter proposing legislation mandating to the state that the data be broken out to respective Municipalities.

### **NOT ON THE AGENDA**

Mr. Spence asked if there was anything he could review from the Historic Preservation training. Ms. Koetas-Dale stated that we were going to get a copy of it and she would look into that and provide it to Mr. Spence.

Ms. Scarafile reviewed the budget and there were funds used for community youth projects had 1,100.00 which was sent over to Public Works with no explanation. Moving the hazard tree budget over to Public Works makes sense however the miscellaneous funds were used for promotions, education, Green Fair etc. \$2,000.00 was reduced to \$500.00; the 1,500 difference went to basin maintenance. Ms. Koetas-Dale suggested the board sit down with Mr. Sahol and come up with a resolution.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

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

Sherry Dudas, 258 Ellisdale Road. Ms. Dudas she is on the newly created board called Save Old York and they are the group responsible for posting the signs. The meeting that the developer had with the Township was well attended and since that meeting they have had an increase of people interested in their organization. They have a facebook page and website "saveoldyork.org". This is not just about the neighboring properties. When it comes to environmental planning we are moving into a new realm. She stated that the surrounding townships are also unhappy regarding warehouses in their areas. She feels the Township may not be inspecting the farms that preserved through the TDR program and believes the Township should do an annual inspection. Ms. Koetas-Dale was unaware as a Township Committee member that an annual inspection should be done. Ms. Dudas stated that under farm land preservation the County does an annual inspection but according to County Agriculture Board the Township should do the inspections on TDR properties. Ms. Koetas-Dale will inquire with Ms. Hoyer.

For the Sustainable NJ Grant she would like to encourage the board to aim higher, she offered her assistance to help write a grant.

Agnes Marsala, 42 Cromwell Drive. Ms. Marsala asked the board if there were any testing areas around the Old York Country Club regarding air and water quality testing. Ms. Romeu responded that we don't we test Blacks Creek and closer to North Hanover however will think about adding Old York County Club. Ms. Marsala asked if the board were looking for any projects for kids that perhaps they could collect garbage along the fence line across from the Bordentown side where the warehouse is. Ms. Scarafile will mention that to the Clean Committees coordinator. At the compressor station you can see cattails and was told by Mark Gallagher that the storm water management may not be up to pare and ask that the board keep an eye on that. In regard to Planning Board they are discussing a park going from 70 trees to 9 trees she asked if the Township asked EC for any comments. Ms. Marsala stated that they have over 200 signatures on the petition regarding the warehouse and asked the board to keep the environment in mind. Ms. Koetas-Dale stated that the Planning Board agreed 70 was too many and 9 was not enough so they asked the Township to look at the proposal again. Ms. Koetas-Dale believes the Planning Board should include the EC or Shade Tree Advisory Board to review, she will talk to the Administrator. Mr. Braun believes the review should come from the EC Board.

Belinda Blazic, 228 Bordentown-Chesterfield Rd. Ms. Blazic stated that the HDD in front of her house was done to protect the tree along the road. It took 8 days to complete the HDD, she asked the board if they knew how old the tree was and the story behind it. Mr. Braun said that it was planted as part of the Liptak tent house in 1720. Right now its hollow and the canopy is like a sail, the right storm could snap it however it is part of history.

A motion was made by Mr. Spence second by Mr. Braun to close public comment, all were in favor, motion carried.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, on a motion was made by Mr. Spence second by Ms. Ryan to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Aggie Napoleon, Secretary