

CHESTERFIELD TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

June 22, 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, F. Gerry Spence (7:11), Ms. Koetas-Dale; Jane Ryan

MINUTES

May 25, 2021

A motion was made by Ms. Romeu second by Ms. Scarafile to approve the May 25, 2021 meeting minutes. All were in favor, motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

Tree City USA Bulletin

PLANNING BOARD APPLICATIONS

No Application were submitted.

DISCUSSION

Reusable Bags

2100 bags have been received. They will begin filling the bags the beginning of next week and should have them distributed by mid-July. Sandesh received 5 more sponsor to put in the bags, he said the funds received from the sponsors will be given to the Green Team trust fund.

Meadow

Mr. Braun said the flowers are blooming and its really coming along great. Some of the turf grass is a little high and he and Ms. Scarafile think it should be mowed on the high side. Ms. Scarafile will take care of that. The birds are in the bird houses as well.

Water Testing

Ms. Romeu said that the testing has finished and the results of the 3rd round are complete. They will have one more to complete the year. The results showed nothing other than one chemical was high however that was due to farming. She will set up another conference call next week to make arrangements for the next round.

Shade Tree Update

Ms. Koetas-Dale stated that they are still moving forward with the Tree Inventory and also with the memorial tree project. At this time there is nothing new to report.

Tree Keepers

No update

Spotted Lantern Fly

Ms. Scarafile informed the board that she saw that they have hatched by the library, Ms. Koetas-Dale has also seen them at her house.

Dumping

Ms. Scarafile completed the flyer and posted it on Next Door. Ms. Koetas-Dale will post it on the local sites. The secretary will ask the Township to post it on the website. The flyer is for public awareness and hope that it helps with residents in the Old York Village to stop dumping their lawn debris.

Girdled trees

Ms. Scarafile talked to the County and they are aware and are looking into getting it done. They will let her know what the plan is and then the secretary will send that info to the board.

Sustainable

Ms. Scarafile stated that the application has been submitted and we are waiting for the certification.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

Philip Green – 24 Olivia Way thanked the board for all the work they have done. He sent a detailed video to the board that he had taken with a drone of the multiple retention ponds. As he walked around he saw the no mow signs, he spoke to Troy and was informed that it is to keep the geese out and also to keep chemicals from going into the water. Mr. Green lives near one of the ponds and he expressed his concern that this has brought in a high volume of snakes into his yard. The bushes and trees surrounding the ponds have also been let go, they look nothing like they used to. If something isn't done you won't be able to see the water and will have a standing woods situation. You cannot get to the dock that was put in off of Harness Way. Because the grass is so high you can't get to the park benches that were put around the ponds.

Mr. Braun stated that the strategy intent was to maintain water quality.

Ms. Romeu said the board has been working on this for the past year because the residents had complained about the geese. The other issue is the algae from the fertilizer that the residents spray on their lawns draining into the ponds and the board felt this was the best way to control both of those issues.

Ms. Dyson stated that some of these areas are wetlands and a permit would be needed to mow. The state would have to send a wetlands expert out to do an assessment to see where the wetlands start and stop.

Mr. Green spoke to DEP and they recommended that the grass be cut around the ponds once a month.

In regard to the dock and the benches near the dock, Ms. Scarafile will go out there with Public Works to discuss access to the dock and benches

Mr. Green mentioned he spoke to a company called geese police and they said that a dog statue keeps the geese away. Ms. Scarafile stated that the board had done research and they felt no mowing was the most efficient and cost effective way also beneficial to the stormwater and habitat.

Michael Flacco – 25 Olivia Way. His concern is the amount of ticks and the health concern for him and his family. He could avoid walking in the wooded area by because the basin is close to the side walk he won't be able to walk on that. Ms. Scarafile informed him that she will evaluate that area.

Anil Katragadda – 26 Olivia Way. Asked the board if it will be maintained at 15 ft. buffer. Ms. Scarafile stated that for it to be effective the grass has to be head high to the geese. Mr. Braun stated it depends on the plant type some brush will exceed 15 ft. Ms. Scarafile will ask the records Agriculture people.

Mr. Greene stated that if the bushes that are growing up in the ponds could be cleaned up that could help.

Ms. Scarafile stated that she would evaluate the area and make a report. She will then report back next month to the board.

The secretary read Ms. Ryan's comments – It is standard in un mowed meadows to bush hog once a year to eliminate wooded material and the best time would be February. This will help maintain the area.

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 7:48 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Aggie Napoleon, Secretary