

# **CHESTERFIELD TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

**September 28, 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 (7:10), Karl Braun, Rita Romeu, Sarah Dyson (7:21), F. Gerry Spence; Jane Ryan; Ms. Koetas-Dale (7:06)

## **MINUTES**

July 27, 2021

A motion was made by Mr. Spence second by Mr. Braun to approve the July 27, 2021 meeting minutes. All were in favor with the exception of Ms. Ryan who abstained, motion carried.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

None

## **PLANNING BOARD APPLICATIONS**

No Application were submitted.

## **DISCUSSION**

### Sustainable

Ms. Romeu updated the board. The application is being reviewed and in the process. We currently have 110 points approved and 65 more completed and under review.

### Meadow

Mr. Braun informed the board that the idea for adding additional wildflowers was presented to the Township by Ms. Koetas-Dale. The hope is to make the addition more liner for the future. In the future perhaps have a solar field for the main building. The additional meadow would be approx. and acre in size, adding plants with height. They have a tentative stake out to get things moving along, hopefully by late November. Ms. Ryan would like to add a layer of native plants as well.

### Spotted Lantern Fly

There have been inquires to the Township if they could do something about the spotted lantern fly. Ms. Romeu stated that you can't spray because this will also kill good insects such as the honey bee. There is a webinar posted on the website under the Environmental Commission page regarding the spotted lantern fly. Ms. Koetas-Dale will publish the video on social media. Mr. Braun stated that the praying mantis is a natural predator and their egg cases should be saved, he suggested we get that information out to the public. Ms. Koetas-Dale suggested taking pictures of the egg cases to show the public what they

look like so they don't destroy them. Ms. Rosanne Goldberg stated that she can collect the a-pods and save them for the EC. Ms. Romeu asked her to take photos so they can be posted.

### Composting Seminar

The seminar will be October 16<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am. Ms. Scarafile stated so far they have 9 people from the community that have registered and she hopes the 7 board members will also attend along with members of the Green Team. Ms. Koetas-Dale stated that she promoted it at the Harvest Fest and put a flyer in the Library, Post Office and will put one in the General Store and Bank. She will also send it to the secretary to pass it out to everyone. Ms. Koetas-Dale stated that we received a \$2,000.00 grant that Ms. Dudas applied for on behalf of the EC for education. If this seminar is successful that will give the EC a better shot for a larger grant. Another seminar will be done in the spring as well. There are 50 compost buckets that will be given out.

### EHD (Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease)

This disease is effecting the deer. There are 177 cases in Burlington County and 500 State wide. New Jersey Fish and Wild Life would like everyone report any cases to them on their website. Deer seizing is a symptom. Ms. Romeu suggested the EC put something out to educate the public, she will put together a flyer for the website. Mr. Braun stated that this is the cause of losing 50% of the deer population. The deer get this disease from midge fly bite and is not transmitted between the deer. There is also no danger to the public. Ms. Ryan stated that chiggers have moved up north and are in Chesterfield. She suggested making the public aware of this as well.

### Tree Keeper

Ms. Scarafile stated that there is a dead white pine tree at Charlotte Rodgers Park. She didn't see any signs of bag worms. Ms. Koetas-Dale will talk to DPW to have the tree removed.

### Shade Tree Board Update

Mr. Braun stated that they established the Ash damage and will work on the trees during the green months. The green leaf time of the year is the best time to remove the hazardous trees. Ms. Koetas-Dale stated the Mr. Ulshafer is working on the inventory and she will get an update at the next meeting. Everything is in place to do the memorial garden for residents to donate trees in memory of loved ones. They will start advertising to do the sales through the winter. Mr. Braun stated that the locations will be Fenton Lane Park, Charlotte Rodgers Park, and behind the firehouse near the bridge are the locations for the trees. Ms. Koetas-Dale asked the EC to help advertise. They are still working on an ordinance, she would like to have a subcommittee formed.

### **ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA**

Ms. Ryan stated that in regard to the basin mowing schedule that Rutgers recommends, Ms. Romeu informed everyone that at this point the EC will be turning all that over to the Township to handle. Ms. Ryan spoke to an expert and was informed that if mowing once a year the best time is November. Ms. Koetas-Dale informed the board that this is being

turned over to the Township due to the concerns of the residents. If the EC has suggestions they should write them in a memo to the Township Administrator and DPW.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

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

Viraf Mohta – 40 Olivia Way. Mr. Mohta attended the EC meeting in July and expressed the bad condition of the retention basin and the trash issue and followed up with an email that he asked the secretary to distribute to which she did. Ms. Koetas-Dale recommended that he call Tom Sahol, Township Administrator directly. She also stated that there has been a lot of discussion regarding this between Public Works, the Environmental Commission and the Township.

Hearing no further public comment, a motion was made by Mr. Spence second by Mr. Braun 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. Koetas-Dale to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 7:46 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Aggie Napoleon, Secretary