

# **CHESTERFIELD TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

## **NOVEMBER 28, 2023**

Chair Scarafile called the meeting of the Chesterfield Township Environmental Commission to order at 6:35PM. The Open Public Meetings Act Statement was read and compliance noted.

Present Suruchi Batra; Sarah Dyson; Rachel Dekovitch, Roseann Greenberg, Nancy Scarafile, Jane Ryan. Absent: Denise Koetas-Dale, Liaison and Shreekant Dhopte

### **MINUTES**

September 26, 2023

It was pointed out that there were a couple of miss spelled words and Ms. Ryan asked that language be changed regarding her comment about the shape of the pollinator meadow be changed to read “mowing in a circular curving line”

A motion was made by Ms. Greenberg second by Ms. Ryan to approve the September 26, 2023 meeting minutes with the corrections. All were in favor with the exception of Ms. Batra and Ms. Dyson, who abstained. Motion carried.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

None

### **PLANNING BOARD APPLICATIONS**

The secretary distributed the minutes from the October 17, 2023 approved Planning Board minutes.

### **DISCUSSION**

#### Rigid Plastic Collection

Ms. Scarafile stated that 860 lbs were collected. The board talked about having this event once a year. It was suggested having the event at the Green Fun Fair.

#### Sustainable Jersey

Ms. Scarafile stated the deadline is February 25<sup>th</sup> and she asked the board to submit anything they have by February 14<sup>th</sup> so that she can review it before submitting. Right now to start we have 190 points for the first submission. The second submission is on May 12<sup>th</sup> and the third is July 12<sup>th</sup>.

#### Pollinator Meadows

Ms. Scarafile stated that Mr. Ulshafer is going to leave Charlotte Rogers meadow as is and he is going to leave 2 ft. at the Municipal Building.

### 2024 Budget

He board reviewed the budget and agreed to request line item Education/Training be increased because the members of the Shade Tree Advisory Board will also be using the funds for education trainings. Requesting Legal Publications also miscellaneous line items be increased.

### ERI

Ms. Koetas-Dale asked STAB to look over the natural vegetation section. Ms. Greenberg sent that same section of the 1976 ERI to STAB to use as a comparison. She said that new ERI is lacking a lot of information that the 1976 version had. The 1976 versions you can tell that they walked the Township and with the new version they are picking information off of DEP 2015 land use and land cover analysis and other references. In 1991 and 1992 there was a rare plant species study done which was an addendum attached to the 1976 ERI. Ms. Dyson said she would look at the version that's on the website and the draft and see what the differences are. Ms. Scarafile talked about having a drone take aerial pictures and send to ERI to be included in the report, Ms. Scarafile stated the drone service would be donated.

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

Ms. Scarafile asked the board to send her any volunteer hours that were done. She needs that information for the Accomplishment Report that is submitted to the Township at the end of the year.

Regarding the pictures from Karl's dedication event in October, Ms. Dyson sent them to Ms. Koetas-Dale to post on the website.

Ms. Greenberg stated that at the Shade Tree Federation Conference there was a program on Municipal Forestry Management Plan and they talked about all the changes to it. Ours expires on 2027 and one requirement is that we must have a Tree Inventory done. Its required that it is data driven they want mapping of goals and objectives, new ways of thinking around goals and action items. In 2024 we should apply for a grant through the DEP Forestry Department. Members of the STAB did a zoom meeting with Levon Bigalow and he told them that you can do the inventory in sections, and then you can apply for another grant to do another section and so on. No private property can be done only Township property and an approved Forester or Arborist has to be the one to do the Inventory.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ms. Dyson second by Ms. Greenberg made a motion open for public comment.

Carly Degirolamo introduced herself, she is the new Watershed Ambassador for our area. She offered her services in any way she can to help our needs. She can do education programs and Environmental Stewardship trainings. She can also do partnership programs. Ms. Greenberg asked if she could to a program for the public to tell how flooding is causing so much problems.

AJ Redlich from Troop 55 informed the board that his Eagle Scout project is making a kiosk behind the tree line in the conservation easement off Recklesstown Way. He has write ups and pictures of different types wildlife in that area. He listed contact information for the EC secretary, NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife and Natural Wildlife Federation for anyone that would want more detailed information. It will be made of 2x4 and 4x4 treated wood with similar color of fences nearby. The goal is to have it completed by April 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup>. The space is 36x36 and he asked the board to help him make sure everything is on there that should be. He will send the power point to the secretary and she will distribute to the board for comments and suggestions.

Ms. Greenberg stated that STAB suggested using QR Codes on his information board and to list [xcereces.org](http://xcereces.org) for information.

Hearing no further public comment, a motion was made by Ms. Dekovitch second by Ms. Greenberg to close public comment.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, a motion made by Ms. Dekovitch second by Ms. Ryan to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 7:33PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Aggie Napoleon, Secretary