

CHESTERFIELD TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
MAY 9, 2023

Chair Scarafile called the meeting of the Chesterfield Township Environmental Commission to order at 6:30PM. The Open Public Meetings Act Statement was read and compliance noted.

Present Sarah Dyson, Rachel Dekovitch, Rosanne Greenberg, Nancy Scarafile, Jane Ryan, Suruchi Batra. and Shreekant Dhopte

MINUTES

March 28, 2023

The secretary stated that on a motion to open to public comment Mr. Braun's name should have been Ms. Ryan.

A motion was made by Ms. Dyson second by Ms. Dekovitch to approve the March 28, 2023 meeting minutes with the correction. All were in favor; with the exception of Mr. Dhopte who abstained, motion carried.

OATH

Shreekant Dhopte – 1 year unexpired term

CORRESPONDENCE

None

PLANNING BOARD APPLICATIONS

None

DISCUSSION

Approve review letter to Active Acquisitions OY, LLC

A motion was made by Ms. Dyson second by Ms. Scarafile to approve the letter that was sent to Active Acquisitions dated April 13, 2023. All were in favor with the exception of Mr. Dhopte who abstained, motion carried.

Charlotte Rogers Pollinator Garden

Ms. Scarafile stated she hasn't seen new growth, Ms. Ryan said that it would take time to see the progress. The board talked about having a meet and greet to present Mr. Braun with his sign. Ms. Dyson will check with Mr. Braun's family to see when a good day would be. The board suggested either a Saturday morning or a Sunday afternoon. The Township Committee should also be invited.

Pollination Gardens at the Municipal Building

Ms. Scarafile stated that the two by the roadway are doing well. The square one is not doing so good, Ms. Ryan said that the grass is high however there are 100's of perennial sunflowers that are starting to grow and should be about 4 feet tall at full growth. Ms.

Greenberg attended a webinar for meadows the commentators said that 8 years after seeded there were blooms that were never shown before. Ms. Ryan suggested the areas that are turf we could solarize it by pinning black plastic and doing that over a couple of seasons. She has the plastic that can be used and will organize a day where everyone can work on it.

Millings in Sykesville

Ms. Scarafile asked if anyone knows about the millings and if they are safe to be there. Ms. Dyson stated that the DEP 2013 regulations are changing and are not yet updated. She has no rules at this point however millings cannot be dumped in wetlands or by a stream. They should only be used if paving over it which were rules from 2013.

Fish Ladder at Sykesville Bridge

Ms. Scarafile and a friend cleared the debris so the fish can flow through the stream

Hedgerow

Ms. Greenberg said that SEWA kids and one from Camp Fire planted during the Green Fun Fair. They were only able to plant 37 bushes due to the mulch piles being in the way. Public Works made smaller piles of the much and Ms. Greenberg spread it all. She will plant the remaining 3 bushes. Mr. Kuser who donated all the bushes would like to put more in. Ms. Ryan asked if there was a design for the windbreak and Ms. Greenberg stated that there will be 40 arborvitaes planted and she will be donating 30 coral berry bushes to be planted.

Green Fun Fair

Ms. Batra said that the weather turned out great. She received a lot of positive feedback ANJAC asked for pictures, she said she has a lot. The post contest was a huge hit however next year we need to get the school involved to promote it, there were 25-30 participants. The plant swap was last minute so next year we need to advertise this earlier. Bordentown Green Fair is next month and they will have a raffle so we can get some ideas from them. The board is planning to have a meeting to go over things and what to improve on. Ms. Greenberg thanked Dennie Higgins and Lorrie Thier. Without Lorrie the event couldn't have been pulled off, she did the emails to vendors and the publicity and more. Ms. Greenberg also would like to give a special thank you to her friends for covering the Environmental Commission table, Pat Kalck; Dorothy Donnelly and Theodora Wang, they are master gardeners and she will be treating them to dinner. Theodora took about 150 photos, she sent Ms. Greenberg 12 of the hedgerow because she wasn't able to get down there during the planting with all that she had to do. Mr. Dhopte expressed his concern with the parking and suggested that be looked at for next year. Ms. Greenberg stated that the Public Works parking lot could be used for overflow and if it doesn't rain they could park on the grass at the firehouse, Ms. Dyson suggested that if the event were in front of the building people would see it and maybe more likely to park across the road or even along the road. Ms. Greenberg stated that next years event should be starting to be planned in the next couple of months. The board should start going to events and ask those vendors to come to ours.

Wawa replacement trees

Ms. Scarafile stated that the basin have been fixed. The target date for the trees to be planted was the week of April 17th. Mr. Hirsh has been in contact with the contractor. Ms. Scarafile emailed Mr. Hirsh today to see what the status is.

ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Ms. Batra mentioned that she attended the NJ Summit in Holmdel. She shared her experience with the board she also passed out pamphlets to the board members that she picked up that she thought would be of interest. She informed the board regarding solar energy and if they come out to do a demonstration then we can received 25 sustainable points. Ms. Greenberg stated that she and Ms. Koetas-Dale had attended last year and she stated it was very informative.

Ms. Scarafile checked the beaver activity and stated there wasn't any. She also stated that the wire needs to be replaced on a few trees. She has 2 ½ rolls if anyone could go out to wrap.

Ms. Ryan stated that the recycling facility field trip is scheduled for 4:30 on 5/18/23. Ms. Ryan, Ms. Dyson and Ms. Greenberg have signed up. Mr. Dhopte state that Ms. Koetas-Dale is also signed up.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on a motion was made by Mr. Dhopte second by Ms. Greenberg to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 7:27 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Aggie Napoleon, Secretary