

CHESTERFIELD TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

June 27, 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, Suruchi Batra (6:33, Shreekant Dhopte, Denise Koetas-Dale, Liaison. Absent: Jane Ryan.

MINUTES

May 9, 2023

A motion was made by Ms. Greenberg second by Mr. Dhopte to approve the May 9, 2023 meeting minutes. All were in favor; motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

PLANNING BOARD APPLICATIONS

Double O Properties – Minor Site Plan

Nancy stated that they are not many native plants. Rachel said that there a native alternatives and that the EC should ask them to change them if possible. This will benefit the wildlife also with the climate change native plants will be hardier and will get long geivity. The board had a brief discussion regarding the species. Nancy and Rachel will get together and draft a letter recommending native species, the board agreed.

DISCUSSION

Girdling of trees on Bordentown-Crosswicks Rd.

In January 2021 DEP was notified of the girdling and they issued a notice of violation however when they checked in August 2021 the trees were not dead therefore they rescinded the notice. There are over 20 trees that are dead now. Nancy has been in touch with DEP and they are going to look at them. Across from Charlotte Rogers Park there are trees in the wetland being girdled as well. Denise sent an email to the County Commissioner because the trees are on a County Road. Since May Nancy has been in touch with DEP and as of 6/15 they haven't been able to go look at them.

Harvest Fest

The Harvest Fest is September 30th this year. Suruchi and Rachel will be there to distribute information to the residents, Shreekant will also be there as a Township Committee member. The board talked about ordering pens to give out, they decided to order 150 using the EC Logo. A motion was made by Nancy second by Rachel to approve to spend \$250.00 to cover the cost. All were in favor, motion carried.

Sustainable Jersey

Roseann asked Nancy to explain how the point system works. Nancy informed the board that there are actions to be completed, inside the actions are criteria that has to be met. Our certification expires at the end of 2023. We can start to submit in June for next year and the goal is 350 points for the silver certification. The certification is good for 3 years. The board had a short discussion on the procedures on how to submit the points. The points will be submitted all at the same time in July/August of next year, documentation from this year Green Fair can be submitted for next years certification. Denise stated that the actions need to be done by an organization in the Township and some of the requirements are advertising and promoting, these are things that are looked at. They will accept projects going back 18months from the date of submittal. Rachel will look into getting grants from DEP for EV charging systems which would give us points.

Plastics

Nancy would like to have another rigid plastic recycling collection at the Public Works site which will also give us Sustainable points. It was decided to have the collection on October 14, 2023. Nancy will put posters out.

ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

ERI – Denise stated that the rough draft should be received tomorrow by the intern. They are a month behind schedule due to Miles leaving DVRPC. If the rough draft is ok it should be able to be submitted on time. An open house will need to be scheduled, Denise suggested putting that discussion on for the July meeting.

In regard to Karl's meet and great, the board decided to go with October 7, 2023 at 10:00 am.

Nancy said that Wawa still hasn't replanted yet. It was explained that there is two year maintenance bond that will guarantee the plants stay healthy for two years.

Suruchi will work on getting a vendors together for a community outreach program to give information to residents regarding solar energy. Roseann said that when solar first started it would go to the most ideal location and it would be fed into the lines and anyone that was connected to the line would get the discount on their bill, Denise believes that was correct. Sarah stated that electric doesn't travel long distance, so it would be going to the closest location and then electric companies are buying the electric. Denise stated that this has been looked at and because we have so many preserved land and the capacity of the lines makes it hard for Chesterfield Township.

PUBLIC COMMENT

A motion was made by Roseann second by Shreekant to open for public comment, all were in favor, motion carried. Hearing none a motion was made by Roseann second by Shreekant to close public comment, all were in favor, motion carried.

Aggie passed out the route for the tractor parade to the board members.

Ritvik Yadav and Venkatsahan Paladugu, High School students presented the board with a check for \$50.00 for the Green Team that they had collected at the Green Fair for tutoring services they provided.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on a motion was made by Sarah second by Shreekant to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 7:29PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Aggie Napoleon, Secretary