

CHESTERFIELD TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
SEPTEMBER 26, 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 Rachel Dekovitch, Roseann Greenberg, Nancy Scarafile, Denise Koetas-Dale, Liaison, Jane Ryan. Absent: Suruchi Batra; Sarah Dyson and Shreekant Dophte

MINUTES

July 25, 2023

A motion was made by Ms. Scarafile second by Ms. Dekovitch to approve the July 25, 2023 meeting minutes. All were in favor; motion carried.

August 25, 2023 Special Meeting

A motion was made by Ms. Scarafile second by Ms. Dekovitch to approve the August 25, 2023 special meeting minutes. All were in favor; motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

PLANNING BOARD APPLICATIONS

The secretary distributed the minutes from the July 18, 2023; August 15, 2023 and September 6, 2023 approved Planning Board minutes.

DISCUSSION

Pollinator Meadows

Ms. Scarafile spoke to Public Works regarding the cutting of the meadows. Regarding the square meadow Ms. Scarafile will collect the praying mantis sacks before it is mowed. Troy would like to mow in the fall, he will mow leaving 1 ft. Ms. Ryan suggested mowing in a circle having curving lines as opposed to a square.

In regard to the second meadow near the roadway, Troy would like to mow that when it goes dormant over the winter, Ms. Greenberg suggested leaving 1 ft. or higher this doesn't destroy the seeds, its not the best but its ok. Ms. Ryan suggested leaving 1 ½ ft to make it uniform. Ms. Greenberg suggested asking Troy to wait till everything is brown and dead.

Regarding the meadow at Charlotte Rodgers, Ms. Scarafile suggested leaving that as is.

ERI

Ms. Ryan stated that in some sections it is written so that the public could understand and in other sections she as a professional didn't understand. For example "mission fish of stocking", Ms. Ryan stated that makes no sense, Ms. Scarafile will find out. Under Snake lists, they have as common snakes Corn and Milk however they are never seen but Black Racers are, Ms. Scarafile stated the Mr. Braun mentioned that he had seen Corn and Milk. In regard to rare bird species, Ms. Ryan stated that American Kestrel, Great Blue Herron and Wood Thrash are not rare. In regard to a list of birds, Ms. Greenberg stated that they asked for a time frame of when they were observed, she went on ebird.org documenting on the website was King Coral Trail in Columbus from Oct. 2016 to present, Bright View Farm in Chesterfield starting in June 1998, the Scissor Tail Fly Catcher at Crosswicks Creek in Crosswicks dates back to April 15, 1872 which can be taken out because there is no updated date to which it has been seen. Ms. Scarafile will ask exactly what time frame they are looking for and ask that they clarify what is needed.

Ms. Greenberg said it was asked who is John Wright, his name appeared in 1976 Chesterfield Township Natural Resource Inventory. In 1677 John Wright immigrated from England and settled in Recklesstown now known as Chesterfield Village.

Ms. Scarafile mentioned that some of the birds names are capitalized and some are not, Ms. Ryan suggested asking what the standard is.

Aggie will send out the next draft of the first chapter to everyone for review.

Sustainable Jersey

The dead line is February 25th, Ms. Koetas-Dale suggested forming a sub committee to work on it. Ms. Scarafile; Ms. Ryan; Ms. Dekovitch and Ms. Koetas-Dale will be on the committee.

CORE Training

We have enough people signed up for the Shade Tree Conference to receive the CEU's that are required. No one signed up for CORE Training

ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Rigid plastic collection will be on October 14th from 10am-2pm. Ms. Scarafile will cover from 12pm-2pm; Ms. Ryan will cover from 10am-12pm.

Mr. Braun's dedication plaque will be on October 7th. Ms. Koetas-Dale will contact Ms. Dyson to see if that the details are, Aggie will send out an email to all. Ms. Greenberg and Ms. Ryan are not able to make that date.

Ms. Greenberg talked about the Green Fair for next year. It will be held on April 28th, Ms. Dekovitch and Ms. Koetas-Dale will help out. The invites will need to go out in October to the

vendors. Lorie Thier has the entire list, Ms. Koetas-Dale spoke to Mr. Sahol to see if Rachel Fryc can work on organizing the invites during her work day. Ms. Greenberg suggesting having a poster on the website and as the vendors sign up residents can see who will be there.

Ms. Greenberg said that at the Ag Advisory Board meeting, Sherry Dudas works for the NJ Forestry Department and she made a comment that while driving around Chesterfield Twp. There are so many dead trees that she is afraid there could be a forest fire. Ms. Dudas suggested that Chesterfield should have a community wild fire protection plan. Ms. Koetas-Dale has a meeting set with Congressman Andy Kim to talk about a Grant Ms. Dudas found, Ms. Greenberg read that a award of up to \$250,000.00 can be awarded for high risk areas. She also brought it up at the Shade Tree Advisory board and the grant is also eligible for State Forestry Agencies. Ms. Greenberg stated that if a NJ Forestry Agency has a plan we could copy from that.

Ms. Scarafile asked what picture the EC would like to see on the front page of the ERI. The board had a short discussion, Ms. Scarafile will put some pictures together and circulate to the board.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Scarafile open for public comment. Hearing none, public comment was closed.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, a motion made by Ms. Greenberg second by Ms. Dekovitch to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 7:29PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Aggie Napoleon, Secretary