

# Charter Township of Orion

Oakland County, Michigan

## Environmental Resources Committee Minutes

Regular Meeting, Monday, December 1, 2014

Orion Center – 10:00 AM

1. Call to order by Susan Donovan, the Chair, at 10:05 am
2. Roll call: Beth Sheridan, Mike Flood, Harold Flood, Joe Laveque, Sue Donovan, George Hanley, Christine Modovsky
3. Determination of a quorum: Yes, there is a quorum, and all attendees are eligible to vote.
4. Regular order of business
  - Approval of minutes for November 2014 meeting: Mike Flood made a motion to approve, George Hanley seconded; motion passed.
  - Approval of agenda: Beth Sheridan made a motion to approve the agenda as amended, Mike flood seconded; motion passed.
5. Pending Business
  - Report, OTERC Board Presentation: Sue Donovan, with George Hanley and Harold Flood, made the OTERC Presentation to the Township Board on 11/17/2014. The presentation covered mainly CRWS signage, NOHAZ, recycling, and phragmites. Sue Donovan presented what we as a committee have accomplished in regard to a program and strategy for eradicating phragmites, and also the frustrations that we have encountered. Sue let the board know that getting rid of phragmites in the township is a big job, and an Ad Hoc committee in conjunction with township staff needs to be formed to tackle the problem beginning in early spring. The proposed Ad Hoc committee should consist of interested community and committee members, Jeff Stout to represent the township, and other interested township employees. It was noted that there were no questions or comments from the board after the presentation, but Mike noted that the presentation was well received by the Orion Township Board.
  - Phragmites Strategy, what's next?
    - After discussion it was decided that the Ad Hoc committee should be formed and meet mid January to begin developing a strategy and process.
    - Sue Donovan will request a mid January meeting with Jeff Stout to see whether he will be part of the Ad Hoc committee and determine what role the Committee and volunteers will fulfill as part of the Phragmites eradication plan.

- Anyone else interested in being on the Ad Hoc committee should email Chris Barnett.
- Orion Township led by Chris Barnett, along with SEMCOG and OPIS, and in cooperation with 10 other communities, is applying for a Michigan Invasive Species Grant, which could be a game changer in eradicating Phragmites and other invasive plants. The grant application must be turned in by December 5<sup>th</sup>. It is being developed by Emily Duthinh of OPIS and John Delisle, Owner of Natural Community Services.

-Meeting schedule for 2015 approval: Sue Donovan proposed the following meeting dates for the OTERC for 2015:

Thursday Feb 5 @7:00pm  
 Thursday, March 5 @7:00pm  
 Thursday, May 7 @7:00pm  
 Monday June 1 @10:00am  
 Monday July 6 @10:00am  
 Monday August 3 @10:00am  
 Thursday Sept 3 @7:00pm  
 Monday October 5 @10:00am  
 Thursday Nov 5 @7:00pm  
 Monday, December 7 @10:00am

Harold Flood moved to approve the 2015 schedule of meetings, Joe Laveque seconded; motion passed.

#### 6. New business

-Annual report on NO HAZ- Mike Flood presented a report on 2014 results as well as a report about 2015 NOHAZ plans; some highlights were mentioned:

- \$6.00 per car savings because of a 3 year contract with vendor
- New logo is being designed
- Orion will be using Wildwood and the soccer fields by the Orion Township Hall for its event in 2015

-Amendment to Ordinance 73, Single Trash Hauler:

- First reading at the Orion Township Board meeting tonight, Dec. 1, 2014.
- The OTERC takes the position that recycling for multi-family units should be addressed, and wrote the following statement to be read at the Township Board meeting tonight, Dec. 1, 2014:

*The Orion Township Environmental Resources Committee (OTERC) strongly urges the Board of Trustees to revise the proposed amendment to Ord. 73 to also apply to multi-family developments (condominium and apartments) and mobile home communities, including recycling requirements. These residences are a significant contributor to the overall volume of discarded materials in the township, as they represent about 22% of township housing stock.*

7. Committee comments:

- George Hanley summarized the status of a project to recommend revision of Ordinance 79 (noxious weeds). He noted that there have been two committee (George Hanley, Mike Flood, Mark Thurber and Lucy Koscierynski) meetings to date to review the Phragmites challenge and recommend future direction which could potentially include revising and updating the current ordinance to: 1) Require contractors to incorporate a provision for appropriate treatment of on-site Phragmites infestations in order to receive building permits and 2) Require owners of property with infestations to set up escrow accounts upon the sale of property with Phragmites infestations to provide for future appropriate treatment. Alternately, also being considered is a new ordinance specifically establishing a procedure for addressing and eliminating Phragmites infestations in the Township. The effort may be expanded to include other interested townships involved in the MIS grant submission. Two December meetings are planned by the Ordinance review committee for interested parties, along with Orion Township planning consultants, to discuss potential future direction and recommendations.
- Mike Flood mentioned that Christine Modovsky will automatically become a full voting member of the committee when Heather Muzzy's term is over at the end of 2014.

8. Adjournment: Beth Sheridan moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:45, Harold Flood seconded; motion passed

The next meeting is February 5, 2015, 7:00 pm, OT Community Center