

Charter Township of Orion

Oakland County, Michigan

Environmental Resources Committee Minutes

Regular Meeting, Monday June 1, 2015

Orion Center – 10:00 am

1. Call to order by the Chair: 10:05 am
2. Roll call: Susan Donovan, Joe Laveque, George Hanley, Rob Zielenski (new non-voting member), Christine Modovsky, Harold Flood, Mike Flood, Beth Sheridan
3. Determination of a quorum: Yes, more than 4 voting members present.
4. Regular order of business
 - Approval of minutes for May 2015 meeting: Mike Flood made a motion that the May minutes be approved, Joe Laveque seconded; motion passed.
 - Approval of agenda: After several amendments, the June agenda was approved as amended. Mike Flood made a motion to approve the agenda as amended, George Hanley seconded the motion; motion passed.
5. Pending business
 - Recycling information page update progress and NO HAZ posters:
Committee members gave Joe Laveque updates; he will revamp the document and get in touch with the Township Clerk's office to have the revised document posted to the township website.
NO HAZ posters were distributed to committee members to post various places, Joe Laveque will post the remaining, and will contact the NO HAZ committee to get some more posters for further marketing. Suggested placements were schools, ACE hardware stores and Home Depot.
 - Phragmite strategy
 - Ad Hoc committee progress:
The first meeting of the Phragmites Ad Hoc committee was May 20, 2015. They plan to contact property owners of high visibility sites which have stands of Phragmites to educate the owners and request them to opt for a no-obligation cost estimate to treat in fall 2015. Jeff Stout will deal with the contractors and get the cost estimates back to the committee member who will contact the property owner regarding the cost. If a decision is made to treat, the signed contract will be returned to Jeff with a check made out to the township who will pay contractor for services rendered under the township-

wide DEQ permit covering to treatments in 2015. The Township will record and report all data regarding treatment to the DEQ.

George discussed Phragmites strategy, the complexities involved in treating stands owned by adjoining property owners and showed committee members building department plats as illustrations. He also commented on several sites, including one where a housing complex with infestations abuts property owned by the township making it desirable that both be treated at the same time.

Rob Zielinski would like to become a member of the Phragmites Ad Hoc committee and Mike Flood will make a formal request to the township for Rob to be on the committee. Next Ad Hoc Committee meeting is Tuesday, June 9th at 7:00pm.

-Phragmites Ordinance Update: George provided an update on the ordinance status. The Ordinance Committee's requested content was reviewed at a joint meeting of the Board of Trustees, Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals in late February and a drafting process was commissioned by the Board at its March 2 meeting. No further information updates were forthcoming until a status request was made to the Supervisor on May 29, with the response indicating the Ordinance was on hold due to enforceability concerns. An Ordinance draft was requested for Committee review and the content was found to be inconsistent with the original recommendation, instead being more closely aligned with the northern Michigan ordinances which reflect Great Lakes shoreline concerns and require mandatory treatment subject to hearings requesting exemption. George will redraft the Ordinance to reflect the Committee's original intent- - a voluntary participation approach under the direction of the Township Operations Director, with the Ad Hoc Committee as the process facilitators from mapping through contract signing. Treatment will only be mandated, subject to hearings for exemption, in cases where hazardous conditions - - fire, ecological damage and road safety issues- -exist. In addition, contractors will be required to agree to treat infestations on properties appropriately in order to receive building permits and owners who have not participated in voluntary treatment will be required to provide the Township with the cost to treat infestations on their property upon sale or transfer of ownership.

-Love your City Update: Our high school student liaison Madeline Braley introduced a Love LO program concept at the March meeting and reviewed it again at the May meeting. We discussed different ways to focus, and to perhaps use this program as an educational, informational arm for our committee. We tabled the discussion until the next meeting, at which Madeline will be present.

6. New business:
 - Alternating meeting dates for 2015-Please see attachment.
7. Committee comments:

- Mike Flood indicated that he would bring the proposed Phragmites Ordinance up at the Orion Township Board meeting tonight, June 1, 2015.

- Beth Sheridan will try to schedule a table in the library lobby for our committee this summer.

8. Adjournment: Beth Sheridan moved to adjourn at 11:30am, Harold Flood seconded the motion; motion approved.

The next meeting is Monday, July 6, 10:00am, Orion Center