

Charter Township of Orion
Oakland County, Michigan

Environmental Resources Committee Minutes
Regular Meeting, Thursday, June 2, 2016
Orion Township Library

1. Call to order by the Chairperson, George Hanley, at 7:07 pm.
2. Roll call: George Hanley, Mike DeLuca, Corinna Womack, Jessie Richmond, Aaron Whatley (guest), Marilyn Hebert (guest)
3. Determination of a quorum: Yes
4. Regular order of business:
 - a) **Approval of minutes** from May 2016 meeting: Jessie Richmond moved that the minutes be approved as presented; Mike DeLuca seconded; motion carried.
 - b) **Approval of agenda:** Jessie Richmond moved that the agenda be approved as presented; Mike DeLuca seconded; motion carried.
5. Pending business:
 - a) **Greener Orion Community Green-up:** Aaron Whatley, Orion Township Parks Director, gave an overview of the community cleanup event held on May 14. The event was the innovation of Madeline Braley, a Lake Orion High School sophomore and student member of this committee, and was a success in spite of the inclement weather. Approximately 125 people participated and ten out of the 20 proposed projects were completed. Several local businesses and organizations pitched in, such as Birmingham Sealcoat, who mowed, trimmed brush and picked up trash along the entire Orion Township leg of the Paint Creek Trail, and Lake Orion Lake Association (LOLA), who cleaned up along the dam and creek area, the DNR boat launch, and along Scripps Road. Lessons learned are already being applied to the planning for the next event, such as coordinating with the free dump days at Eagle Valley and organizing friendly challenges for community groups.
 - b) **OTERC website:** Christine Modovsky did not have the opportunity to hand off the website project to Michael DeLuca. Mike will contact JulieAnn Savard at Orion Township to discuss what input the committee has on the environmental information presented on the township website, and whether there is an opportunity to enhance the page or create something in parallel.
 - c) **Phragmites:** One homeowner to date has requested a no-obligation cost estimate under the township-wide permit. Owners of sites that have been treated in the past were sent letters thanking them for their participation and inquiring if touch-up treatments are necessary. There will also be a follow up with landowners who requested information last year but did not proceed with a decision. Identification of new participants in 2016 is ongoing. George Hanley has sent his draft proposal to modify Ordinance 151 to the ordinance committee and legal counsel and is awaiting feedback.
 - d) **OTERC Table at the Library:** OTERC will post information about environmental topics and events at the Orion Township library June 23-28. The 2015 presentation was reviewed and updates were planned, including pictures from the Community Green-up and some before/after pictures of phragmites treatment areas, as well as updated No Haz and Recycling pamphlets.
6. New Business
 - a) **Resident's concern:** Marilyn Hebert, a resident of the Wendy Hill subdivision located off Clarkston Road behind Kmart, attended the meeting to ask the committee for suggestions on what can be done about invasive garlic mustard. This plant is an aggressive biennial. First-year plants remain green throughout the summer season and into the winter. The second year white flower clusters will appear which pollinate quickly and produce thousands of seeds with each mother plant, which can

stay in the ground for years and are taking over yards and landscaping. In order to control the spread, the plant has to be pulled up with roots intact before the seeds drop. Mrs. Hebert is willing to pay for treatment in her yard, but is concerned about the adjacent dry wetland which is infested. The phragmites ad hoc committee will review the Invasive species ordinance with township personnel and discuss the topic with PLM to determine treatment options and feasibility.

7. Committee Comments

- George Hanley acknowledged a letter of resignation from committee member Christine Modovsky, who is relocating to Washington, DC, where she will be starting work as a biologist for the Food and Drug Administration next month. We would like to thank Christine for her many contributions to the committee, and wish her much success in her new endeavor.
- Mike Deluca asked if the best use of the OTERC committee's resources is to fight invasive species, or if our time would be better spent on outreach and education.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was abruptly adjourned at 8:39 pm.

Next meeting:

**Thursday, July 7, 2016 @ Orion Center,
7:00 -9:00 pm**