

Charter Township of Orion

Oakland County, Michigan

Environmental Resources Committee Agenda

Regular Meeting, Wednesday, December 9, 2015

Lake Orion High School, Auditorium Wing, 8-9:30 am

1. Call to order by the Chair 8:05am
2. Roll call: George Hanley, Jessie Richmond, Christine Modovsky, Madeline Braley, student member, Mike Flood, Harold Flood, Susan Donovan, Beth Sheridan. Guest, Jeff Stout, Orion Township Operations Director.
3. Determination of a quorum: Yes
4. Regular order of business

Approval of minutes for Nov. 2015 meeting: Mike Flood moved that the November minutes draft be approved, Harold Flood seconded; motion passed.
Approval of agenda: Mike Flood moved that the agenda be approved as amended, Harold Flood seconded; motion passed.
5. Pending business
 - Phragmites strategy and Ad Hoc Committee 2015 summary report
Sue Donavon will draft a set of bylaws for the Ad Hoc committee. She indicated that the committee's work is done for 2015, noting that momentum had been achieved this past year but more coordination and an earlier start might be beneficial in 2016. George noted that this past season he had continued with his focus from 2014, looking for high visibility projects that could serve as examples for future participation recruitment in 2016....whether business, HOA or other participants. Based on the 2015 experience, he noted that recruiting businesses to participate required, in most cases, a significant time investment because of the multiple contacts needed to obtain approvals from remote management or partnerships. In addition, where DEQ conservation easements (owned by private parties but controlled by the DEQ) are involved, there must be resolution of process requirements which caused issues for some suppliers due to apparent policy differences between DEQ offices. HOA's require education meetings and subsequent board approval. Except when signing up participants for followup treatment on prior year sites, multiple contacts will generally be necessary from initial contact through cost-estimation and obtaining sign-up to proceed.

Jeff Stout reviewed Orion Township Phragmites process items. The new phragmites ordinance takes effect January 1, 2016. His department will coordinate treatment in the township under a township-wide permit if owners are willing to hire a certified supplier. The goal is to make the process easy for residents, business owners, and other landowners. However, if owners prefer, they can choose to contract on their own. A 2016 goal will be to treat phragmites stands on private land adjacent to already treated township land. Jeff is considering a follow-up letter from the township to people that have previously treated phragmites telling them next steps and what to expect. He recommends having a list of contracts signed and ready to treat by August 1.. Jeff noted that chemicals are the only appropriate way to treat phragmites, something that is a problem for some residents when they are deciding whether to treat. We need to address the challenge with communication and education. There will be a report to the township from Jeff Stout in the first few months of 2016 on the Phragmites treatment process and progress during 2015.

Update, Ordinance 73 Revision

In process. Mike Flood is going to the Planning Committee meeting to try to enforce stopping trash haulers from picking up during off hours, he is also working on getting the planning committee to include Ordinance 73 provisions when issuing building permits.

Love Our Township:

Madeline presented her ideas on using her proposed Greener Orion Campaign to get the community involved in the environment. The committee had a positive response, noting that we need an educational piece for our committee, and Greener Orion could be it. We could use Greener Orion to enhance our presence with younger people and communicate environmental concerns to the Township. Madeline will meet with key people in the schools, and report back next meeting.

6. New business

2015 No Haz yearend update: attached

2016 Meeting schedule: Sue will develop a schedule of 2016 meetings alternating between the first Wednesday of the month at 8:00am at LOHS, and first Thursday of the month at 7:00pm at the Orion Center.

Membership; Sue Donovan, Joe Laveque, Rob Zielenski are leaving the committee January 2016.

Selection of 2016 Committee Officers: Officer selection was deferred until the January meeting, pending any new member appointments.

7. Committee comments:

Jessie Richmond will post on the Lake Orion Chat Facebook page soliciting new members for our committee.

Sue Donovan will put out one last agenda, for the January 2016 meeting.

8. Adjournment:

George moved that we adjourn, Mike seconded the motion; motion approved at 9:35am.

Next meeting Wednesday, January 6, 2016 at 8:00 am at LOHS