

Charter Township of Orion
Oakland County, Michigan

Environmental Resources Committee Minutes
Regular Meeting, Thursday, October 6, 2016
Orion Center

1. Call to order by the Chairperson, George Hanley, at 7:04 pm.
2. Roll call: George Hanley, Beth Sheridan, Mike Flood, Harold Flood, Corrina Womack, Michael J. DeLuca, Rodney Tocco
3. Determination of a quorum: Yes
4. Regular order of business:
 - a) **Approval of minutes** from September 2016 meeting: George Hanley requested an amendment to change the number of garbage pickup providers approved by the township in item 6A from 5 to 7 providers. Harold Flood moved that the minutes be approved as amended; Rodney Tocco seconded; motion carried.
 - b) **Approval of agenda**: George Hanley requested "appoint" be changed to "elect" in item 6C. Mike Flood requested an additional new business item, NoHaz Update. Mike Flood moved that the agenda be approved as amended; Beth Sheridan seconded; motion carried.
5. Pending business:
 - a) **OTERC website / Facebook page / email group update**: Mike DeLuca has added Corrina Womack as Facebook page admin, will add Beth Sheridan and work with all admins in hopes of establishing a regular schedule of posting to build traffic. Mike Flood will check with township about adding OTERC FB page link to the town Facebook page. Rodney Tocco had ideas about appealing to the township regarding the possibility of a third-party OTERC site. Corrina Womack requested looking into a file sharing solution for OTERC members such as Dropbox or Google Drive, which Mike DeLuca agreed to research.
 - b) **Status of Ordinances 73 (Solid Waste) and 151 (Phragmites control)**: Mike Flood will get modifications of Ord. 73 to the board by the spring. George Hanley would like the township to consider reinstating a process by which phragmites requirements could be pursued as part of planning for new development without becoming an obstacle to business. Rodney Tocco asked about the possibility of making town funding available for homeowners to address phragmites on their property. Beth Sheridan pointed out an application process would have to be put in place; George Hanley suggested such funds might be better put to use on larger commercial properties. A more detailed proposal with an associated process would need to be developed and evaluated by the Township.
 - c) **OTERC presentation to BOT**: Mike Flood proposes the presentation be made at the December 19th trustee meeting. Committee agrees. Mike Flood will report this to the town secretary. Presentation topics should include an overview of the committee's work in 2016, including phragmites treatment, Greenup Orion, NoHaz participation and the OTERC Facebook page, shoutouts to organizations such as Birmingham Sealcoat who contributed significantly this year, as well as plans for events and community building in 2017. George Hanley will be the main presenter, with help from committee members on specific topics. Corinna Womack nominated an elementary school for a green award they won, she volunteers to add something up about that. Mike DeLuca will add a few slides about Facebook and the website. Rodney Tocco offers to research and talk about seed viability. Topics to be finalized for November meeting.

- d) **Green Up Lake Orion Fall Project:** George Hanley spoke to Aaron Whatley and they agreed there wasn't enough time to organize another GreenUp this year. He proposes holding the event in April 2017 to link with the road cleanup event.

6. New Business

- a) **Community Awareness:** Corinna Womack outlined ideas for new ways to raise community awareness of OTERC and environmental issues, including creating a badge or plaque for green businesses, creating and distributing an application to be considered for this badge, holding a contest to design a reusable bag which would be offered for sale at town offices and library, Orion spirit wear. Mike Flood suggested bringing the green business award idea to the Chamber of Commerce. George Hanley offered to ask at McDonalds for feedback regarding the green business award idea. Rodney Tocco proposed including some of these plans in the BOT presentation to garner township support and possibly request a small budget.
- b) **Elect new Vice Chair:** Rodney Tocco volunteered. George Hanley nominated Rodney, Beth seconded. Motion carried.
- c) **NoHaz Update:** Mike Flood is the Orion Township Board representative to NoHaz. He attended an emergency meeting to discuss what to do about the fact that CRT monitors are no longer profitable for NoHaz to recycle. A decision has been made to raise the per-car price in order to cover the cost of CRT disposal. This will not affect Orion residents, since the township will still be covering their costs.

7. Committee Comments

- George Hanley encourages members to ask friends to volunteer to occupy the vacant committee position.
- Mike Flood will attempt to get the town to let the ERC meet in the basement of the Orion Center every first Thursday evening of every month, instead of moving the meeting around.
- Corrina Womack proposed an Earth Day event next year.
- Mike DeLuca attempted to convince Corrina to narrow down her big ideas. Corrina will come up with some kind of template form, fill this out and we'll share the information on the website. George volunteers to ask McDonalds how they'd react to something like this. Harold points out that an announcement of such an award at a township meeting would be a big draw. Rodney proposes planning out 2017 and taking it to Chris asking for a small budget.
- Harold Flood says that GM, Clinton River Watershed Council, Rouge River Council do periodic river quality sampling tests with high schools. A sampling of the Clinton River with Orion High School will be taking place on the 21st. Mike DeLuca will mention this on the facebook page.

8. Adjournment

Harold Flood moved that we adjourn, Rodney Tocco seconded the motion; motion approved at 8:30 PM.

Next meeting:

**Thursday, November 3, 2016, 7:00-9:00 pm
Orion Center, Lower Level, Arts & Crafts Room**