

Charter Township of Orion
Oakland County Michigan

Environmental Resource Committee Minutes

Regular Meeting, Thursday, October 5, 2017
Orion Center 7:00PM

1. **Call to order** by the Chair 7:03 pm
2. **Roll Call:** George Hanley, Corinna Womack, Rodney Tocco, Mike Deluca, Mike Flood, Austin Edwards, and Matthew Menghini. Also present was Arely Zimmerman (guest).
3. **Determination of a quorum:** yes
4. **Public comments:** none
5. **Regular order of business**
 - a. **Approval of minutes:** Hanley requested the minutes be amended to state that Mike Flood had toured properties recently with a Township Code Enforcement Officer, not George Hanley. It was moved by Tocco, seconded by Flood, to approve the minutes from the August 3 meeting as modified; motion carried.
 - b. **Approval of agenda:** Moved by Deluca, seconded by Womack, to approve the agenda for the October 5 meeting as presented; motion carried.
 - c. **Pending Business:**
 - i. **Membership update** – M. Flood reported the website's committee membership has been updated. Edwards brought up the idea of asking students while petitioning schools about composting. DeLuca is in touch with an interested OU student and will follow up. Supervisor Barnett would prefer a Lake Orion student to become a member.
 - ii. **Ordinance 73, Solid Waste and Recyclable Materials Collection update** – According to M. Flood, review of the requested updates to this Ordinance remains on hold because the Township Supervisor is pursuing the matter of instituting a single waste hauler for the township. A Committee is being established to develop a proposal and interested citizens can volunteer to participate.
 - iii. **Feed-A-Bee program** – Tocco corresponded with Brendan Ruehle for a debriefing on why the Feed a Bee grant proposal was denied. Ruehle was a student intern at the Township and has since gone back to school, but he confirmed the rejection was a matter of the Township not committing enough personnel resources to the garden's ongoing success. He forwarded the relevant documents for review. Tocco proposed the committee edit the proposal wording to better reflect the fact that the garden is located in a township-managed area with potential resources and volunteers available, and prepare to resubmit. M. Flood offered to follow up with Supervisor Barnett and Aaron Whatley.

- iv. **Reusable bag logo design contest** – DeLuca and Womack are still working on this process. They plan to consult with Schweitzer and will get in touch with Kathy Klein at Waste Management to follow up.
- v. **Battery recycling options** – Hanley indicated that he had contacted Battery Plus on Baldwin Road about accepting non-rechargeable batteries. Womack said there is a charge per pound. Hanley said the store accepts batteries in small quantities at no charge and also indicated that new disposable batteries no longer contain mercury and therefore are safe to dispose of in a landfill.
- vi. **Social media contributions** – DeLuca will follow up researching town social media pages and continue trying to formulate a comprehensive strategy for outreach.
- vii. **Green Business award process report** – DeLuca continues to pursue this with Township Administrative Assistant Julianne Savard and Supervisor Barnett. He will forward around the form and process document to new list members for further comment. Womack asked about the decision process; Hanley pointed out a number of large businesses potentially deserving of the award: Kroger, Powers Distributing; would large businesses overshadow small businesses? Tocco proposed getting the award running with a "low bar" at first, then raising the bar or possibly creating different levels of award later when it was an established thing. M. Flood suggests sharing information about the award with the chamber of commerce. DeLuca agreed to pursue that.

d. **New Business**

i. Composting – Edwards has researched composting options and food disposal and distribution processes and has compiled them in a document. DeLuca suggested adding this information to the environmental resources flyer. Hanley asked Edwards make a presentation of his findings at the November meeting.

e. **Reports**

i. NO HAZ – M. Flood reported on the latest collection on September 16, 2017. It is traditionally, and was again, the least-well attended event so far this year. Additional volunteers are needed for the October 28, 2017 event because of a new two-lane traffic configuration. Hanley and Edwards volunteer tentatively to participate. Electronics make up 50% of volume of items to be disposed.

ii. Trash Hauler Update – The Township is considering instituting a single hauler again and whether to put the question to the voters as a ballot question or not. Womack asked for clarification on objections to single hauler. Hanley mentioned smaller providers could be eliminated from the competition because they don't have capacity to cover the whole township. M. Flood suggested the smaller haulers may be encouraged to band together and make an agreement to divide up the business amicably, perhaps geographically. New housing developments are being required to choose a single hauler and some existing developments require residents to utilize a single hauler.

iii. Phragmites report – M. Flood reports that the township attorney has added legal language to requirements for new developers to address and deal with phragmites. Hanley reported there were thirteen signed 2017 treatment contracts to date with the cutoff approaching. Included are ITC Powerlines, Ashley Capital, Township properties and Lake Orion

schools as well as the HOA on the east side of Squirrel Road and Dutton. Orion Township's voluntary treatment process is being copied elsewhere in the state, including Kalamazoo. According to M. Flood, phragmites infestations negatively effects drainage systems for flood preparedness.

6. **Committee Comments** –

- a. M. Flood: Reported about the removal of the paint-covered concrete from Paint Creek.
- b. Tocco: Go Wings and Go Green.
- c. Womack: Go Blue.
- d. M. Flood reported a new medical marijuana ordinance 2nd reading and public input is tentatively scheduled for the Monday, November 6, 2017 regular Board of Trustees' meeting and is visible on the township website.

7. **Adjournment:** DeLuca moved to adjourn at 8:09 pm, seconded by Menghini; motion carried.

Next meeting Thursday, November 2, 2017
7:00 – 9:00 pm
Orion Center, Lower Level