

Charter Township of Orion
Oakland County, Michigan

Environmental Resources Committee Minutes
Regular Meeting, Thursday, February 2, 2017
Orion Center

1. Call to order by the Chairperson, George Hanley, at 7:01 PM
2. Roll call: George Hanley, Corinna Womack, Mike Deluca, Jessie Richmond, Beth Sheridan
3. Determination of a quorum: Yes
4. Regular order of business:
 - a) **Approval of minutes** from January 2017 meeting: Jessie Richmond moved to approve the minutes as presented. Beth Sheridan seconded. Motion passed.
 - b) **Approval of agenda:** Beth Sheridan moved to approve the agenda as presented. Jessie Richmond seconded. Motion passed.
5. Pending business:
 - a) **OTERC website / Facebook page / file sharing update:** The Facebook page has not been taken down but no new content has been added. People have visited the page in the last month, so it is a tool to direct them to the Township page. A test post about recycling plastic bags was placed on the Orion Township Facebook page which was promptly approved. The team discussed the idea for a citizens group on Facebook to discuss environmental topics of general concern (not related to the Township or ERC activities). Mike Deluca and Jessie Richmond will continue to populate the Google drive with meeting-related content for those ERC members who want to access it that way.
 - b) **2017 Events and Community Outreach Plans:** The suggestion that the ERC work with the Township to recognize local “green” businesses was presented to the BOT during our presentation in January. The idea was well received, and the Board recommended the ERC work with the Chamber of Commerce to roll out the project. Details on the administration of the program have to be defined. Corinna Womack has not received any feedback on the draft template she created for nominating local “green” businesses for recognition, so members are asked to review and respond. Jessie Richmond shared an email outlining a MDEQ grant opportunity for community recycling programs. Beth Sheridan volunteered to review the grant rules and apply if applicable. Corinna Womack pointed out that the grant requirements say the Township would have to match 25% of grant, so this will have to be discussed with the Board of Trustees.
 - c) **Membership:** We are still looking for additional team members including a student representative. Team members will network with the community to recruit new volunteers. Mike Deluca will post about the openings on Facebook. George Hanley will talk to Chris Barnett about recommending a student representative.
6. New Business
 - a) **Environmental Resources list:** George Hanley recommended we begin the annual review to ensure the list is up to date. The target date for completion is the March ERC meeting. Corinna Womack will check the first page; George Hanley and Beth Sheridan will split up the remaining entries. Mike Deluca suggested the name be changed to “Recycling & Disposal List” or something similar to clarify the content, and that the layout could be changed to make the list more user friendly. He will work on some options.

- b) **2nd annual Community Green-Up:** George Hanley met with Aaron Whatley and shared a draft flyer for the upcoming planned event. George will talk to Chris Barnett and Aaron Whatley to confirm who is taking the lead on this project, and to let them know that ERC members volunteered to help with registration and other tasks. George will also propose they consider changing the event date from April 15 to April 22 to coincide with Earth Day. High school kids get credit if they participate. The principal at Carpenter Elementary informed Corinna Womack that the school would be doing environmental projects all month and would be interested in participating in the Community Green-up. Jessie Richmond suggested asking if one of the projects could be focused on Carpenter Elementary during Green-Up, such as a landscaping activity.
- c) **Phragmites ordinance suggestion (from presentation to BOT):** The committee is in agreement that we would like to request a modification to the current ordinance whereby a land developer considering new construction would be asked to assess if there are phragmites on their property, and if so, take steps to mitigate the risk of spreading the infestation during excavation and construction. George Hanley will either present the proposal during open discussion at Monday's board meeting, or request to be put on the agenda for the following meeting.

7. Committee Comments

- George Hanley: Upcoming free disposal days at Eagle Valley are June 3, 2017 and Sept 9, 2017. Kathy Kline, the Community Relations Director for Waste Management, has requested to attend the March ERC meeting.
- Jessie Richmond shared information about a new mapping tool being launched by Michigan Department of Environmental Quality that allows residents to get up-to-date information about the presence of *E. coli* in their community and the potential sources of the bacteria. www.michigan.gov/ecolitmdl
- Corinna Womack asked for information on soil sampling. Mike Deluca will send her a link.

8. Adjournment

Beth Sheridan moved that we adjourn, Mike Deluca seconded the motion; motion approved at 8:19 PM

Next meeting:

**Thursday, March 2, 2017, 7:00-9:00 pm
Orion Center, Lower Level, Arts & Crafts Room**