

Charter Township of Orion
Oakland County, Michigan

Environmental Resource Committee Minutes
Regular Meeting, Thursday, May 4, 2017
Orion Township Hall, Township Board Room, 7:00 PM

1. **Call to order** by the Chair 7:05 pm
2. **Roll Call:** George Hanley, Michael Deluca, Jessie Richmond, Harold Flood, Mike Flood and Rodney Tocco in attendance.
3. **Determination of a quorum:** yes
4. **Public comments:** Visitors in attendance were Austin Edwards, Arely Zimmermann and Kim Dunn. All visitors expressed interest in the committee and their actions. Mr. Edwards followed up on his previous inquiry regarding any food composting programs in the area, and asked about Upcycling events and local community gardens. Info about the Orion Art Center's "Re-create Art Show" and the Friendship Park community garden was shared.
5. **Regular order of business**
 - a. **Approval of Minutes:** An amendment to the March 2nd meeting minutes was recommended to clarify that the location of the May meeting was tentative. Mike Flood moved that the minutes be approved as amended; Rodney Tocco seconded; motion carried. Harold Flood moved that the minutes of the April 5th meeting be approved as presented; Jessie Richmond seconded; motion carried.
 - b. **Approval of Agenda:** Mike Flood requested an additional point (iv.) be added under Reports to include the joint BOT/ZBA/Planning commission meeting. Mike Flood moved that the agenda be approved as amended; Mike Deluca seconded; motion carried.
 - c. **Pending Business**
 - i. **Membership:** No applications for membership have been submitted to date. Our visitors expressed interest in membership, and were advised to visit www.oriontownship.org and complete an application (found under Government > Committees > Committee Openings). The completed application should then be mailed or delivered to Orion Township Clerk's Office, 2525 Joslyn Rd., Lake Orion, MI 48360 for review and Board of Trustees (BoT) approval.

Rodney Tocco contacted the chair of Oakland University's EHS program to see if any of their students would be interested in filling the student spot on the committee. Dr. Olawoyin offered to promote the opportunity to his students, but to date there has been no response.
 - ii. **Status Ordinance 73 (Solid Waste and Recyclable Materials Collection):** Mike Flood gave a short history of Ordinance 73 and of the Amendment process to our attendees. The BoT voted to table the scheduled 1st reading of the Proposed Amendment and postpone action until the May 15, 2017 Board meeting. Committee discussion ensued. No waste haulers were consulted during the writing of the draft proposal; however Waste Management has expressed concern with the amendment to provide residential recycling every week and would prefer the minimum to be every other week. The committee agreed that clear language is needed to define "multiple-family"

to distinguish between units that handle waste individually and those that handle it commercially. There would be a one year grace period for the amendments to be implemented, and residential waste haulers cannot opt out. The Ordinance should be used as input for the Planning Commission when reviewing applications for new multiple-family buildings.

- iii. **FeedABee:** Jessie Richmond contacted Orion Township Supervisor Chris Barnett to see if he felt that Orion Township would like to participate in this program. Chris is very interested in supporting the FeedABee program. The committee offered their support to his team to get the program off the ground, but to date has not been tasked with any actions. George Hanley has had discussions with a local beekeeper with a honey license who is looking for places to put hives. .

d. **New Business**

- i. **Outreach processes:** The committee reviewed the proposed nomination form for the Green Business Award. It was suggested that the frequency of the award be changed from monthly to quarterly. Mike Deluca will update the form and volunteered to initially monitor the submissions and present them to the committee.

Jessie Richmond reported that Madeline Braley has initiated a “Go Green Certified” program on her Facebook page Greener Orion to recognize local businesses for green practices. Madeline confirmed that she has not received any nominations or feedback on her post, nor has she promoted the campaign elsewhere, and that she would be interested in combining forces with the committee to have one unified program. Committee members prefer to move forward with our Green Business Award but would be happy to have Madeline as part of the program.

In addition to coordinating the award with the Township Supervisor’s office, Mike Flood suggested that the committee ask the Chamber of Commerce to participate in promoting and distributing the award.

George Hanley requested more definition of what makes a business eligible for this award. Discussion ensued regarding what standards might be used to determine which businesses get the award. One option is that any green initiatives make a business qualified, and if multiple entries are received then the award could be given to more than one business per quarter, perhaps under different categories. Another option is that the type of initiative should have more bearing, perhaps based on a scoring system. The committee decided to table the discussion to a future meeting so the criteria can be determined.

e. **Reports:**

- i. **2017 NoHaz:** The first collection event took place Saturday, April 15, 2017 at Oxford Middle School. Final results have not been distributed, but initial numbers showed almost 1000 vehicles passed through and over 200 participants were Orion residents. Volunteers who are willing to help check IDs and assist with traffic control at future events should contact Mike Flood.
- ii. **2017 Waste Hauler Licensing:** Orion Township Clerk’s Office recently completed licensing trash hauling vehicles for 2017. Collectively 125 vehicles were registered for the five companies that are currently licensed to engage in trash removal for Orion Township Residents. A list of licensed disposal service providers, rates, and services provided is available on the Clerk’s Office page of the Township website.

- iii. **Green-up Day 2017:** Three committee members joined the 70 registered volunteers (and more who pitched in without registering) for the second annual Green-Up Day event. Twelve sites were cleaned including roadsides, trails, parks, the library and some businesses. One hundred 55-gallon bags of trash were filled by the volunteers and collected by the Road Commission and Waste Management. Local businesses contributed food & supplies, and all registered volunteers received a commemorative t-shirt. The event had a great positive impact on our community.
- iv. **Joint BOT/ZBA/Planning Commission meeting:** This joint meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, May 17 at 6PM. It is a public meeting. Mike Flood sent a letter to Supervisor Barnett as our committee Board representative requesting that Ordinance Enforcement of Ordinance 73 be added to the agenda.

6. **Committee comments:**

- a. Harold Flood reminded the committee that the next free disposal day at Eagle Valley is June 3. There will be a final free disposal day the Saturday after Labor Day. This is a great opportunity for Orion residents to dispose of landfill items.
- b. Mike Flood informed the team that the Township is looking for volunteers for an ad hoc committee to explore the topic of a single trash hauler throughout the Township. At this point the ad hoc committee would only be gathering information. Interested persons should contact Supervisor Chris Barnett. Note: this ad hoc committee not related to the OT Environmental Resources Committee (ERC). In the past, OTERC has recommended going to a single hauler, but has not made any recommendations as to how to do so.
- c. Rodney Tocco reminded committee members and guests to be safe on the lake now that mild weather has arrived. Boater Safety Courses are available through the Township's Community Programs.
- d. George Hanley will contact Kathy Klein to confirm the details to have our next committee meeting at Eagle Valley.

7. **Adjournment:** Harold Flood moved to adjourn at 8:35 pm, seconded by Mike Flood; motion carried.

Next meeting Thursday, June 1, 2017
6:00 pm
Eagle Valley Landfill,
600 Silver Bell Road West