

Charter Township of Orion
Oakland County Michigan

Environmental Resource Committee Minutes

Regular Meeting, Thursday, August 3, 2017
Orion Center 7:00PM

1. **Call to order** by the Chair 7:05 pm
2. **Roll Call:** George Hanley, Corinna Womack, Matt Menghini, Rodney Tocco, Mike Deluca, Kristen Schweitzer and Jessie Richmond
3. **Determination of a quorum:** yes
4. **Public comments:** none
5. **Regular order of business**
 - a. **Approval of minutes:** Moved by Tocco, seconded by Womack, to approve the minutes from the June 1 meeting as presented; motion carried.
 - b. **Approval of agenda:** Moved by Richmond, seconded by Womack, to approve the agenda from the August 3 meeting as presented; motion carried.
 - c. **Pending Business:**
 - i. **Membership update** – Austin Edwards was appointed as an Alternate member to OTERC at the 07/17/2017 Orion Township Board of Trustees meeting. There is still an opening for a student member. Tocco will follow up with the Chair of the Oakland University Environmental Health Sciences department closer to the start of Fall semester. Hanley will ask Chris Barnett if he would like to recommend a Lake Orion High School student. Deluca and Womack will reach out to personal contacts who may have leads. The committee also discussed opportunities to partner with Oxford organizations to work on projects that would benefit both communities.
 - ii. **Ordinance 73, Solid Waste and Recyclable Materials Collection update** – The review of the requested updates to this Ordinance was put on hold because the Township Supervisor was out of town for training. Hanley expects the next opportunity to add this to the BOT agenda will be August 15 meeting, but he did not have confirmation on the agenda point. Trustee Mike Flood had the opportunity to tour the township with the Code Enforcement Officer to determine if there are local multi-family units that may be affected by the proposed changes.
 - iii. **Feed-A-Bee program** – The Township submitted a forage grant proposal but it was denied. Details are not known at this time. Tocco will contact submitter Brendan Ruehle for a debriefing and to see if he wants to be on our meeting agenda next month. The committee would like Mr. Ruhle's feedback to decide if we can assist in rectifying any

problems that would prevent the Township from moving forward with a new grant proposal for 2018. Hanley will talk to Aaron Whatley and a local beekeeper for more input, and to see if the committee or the Township could initiate a project on a smaller scale.

- iv. **Community Education and Outreach** – Womack reported that Waste Management is willing to sponsor a reusable bag design contest and will provide up to 500 bags imprinted with the winning logo. Discussion ensued on program logistics. The contest will be open to local children who will be asked to design a logo based on an environmental theme. Target date to announce a winner is expected to be the next Earth Day in April 2018. The committee will consider seeking other corporate sponsors as well. Womack and Deluca agreed to present a process map at our next meeting.

Committee members are looking for an alternate solution for battery recycling to share with the community. Due to the high cost of recycling batteries, some local stores that used to take them are no longer doing so. Hanley will contact Home Depot's Orion Township location if they take batteries for recycling and what they do with them. Menghini will do research to see if there is another recycler available for residents. Kathy Klein of Waste Management sent Hanley an interesting article about China's proposed import prohibition on recovered plastic and other materials, and how it may affect local markets. He will send the article to Richmond to distribute to the committee.

The OTERC Facebook page has been scheduled by Richmond to be deleted on August 17, 2017. Updates to the page were suspended at the request of the Township in January. Discussion ensued on other ways the committee can reach out to the local community via social media, which has proven effective in the past. The committee agreed to review existing local social media platforms such as the Orion Township page or Friends of Bald Mountain, and to propose several topics of interest to their subscription base. All members are asked to be ready to present their ideas at the September meeting. Richmond will send links to several sites out to the committee.

Deluca shared the Orion Green Business Award Nomination Form with the Township administration, but has not received any feedback. Hanley suggested he send the information directly to the Township Supervisor.

- d. **New Business** – Hanley gave a report on the status of the 2017 Phragmites control program. We do have township permit. Kathy Klein has been in contact with PLM to get a quote for treatment at the Eagle Valley landfill. Jeff Stout, the township Operations Director, went to DEQ Lansing to describe our past activities and discuss the process for landowners with a conservation easement on their property to get Phragmites treatment approved by DEQ. The property owner has to contact DEQ to ask permission (via signature) to treat in the easement. Hanley will check with Mr. Stout to see if and how the community has been notified of this process. The treatment window for Phragmites is late Aug – early Sept until first frost.

- e. **Reports** - The most recent Oakland County NO HAZ 2017 collection date was held on Saturday, July 22, 2017 in Independence Township. A total of 818 cars attended the event, and of these, 131 indicated they were Lake Orion Residents. Upcoming dates are Saturday, September 16, 2017 at OCC Highland Lakes Campus, and Saturday, October 28, 2017 at Wildwood Amphitheater. Volunteers are needed for both events. Interested parties can contact Trustee Flood.
6. **Committee Comments** – Secretary Richmond has a conflict and cannot attend the September meeting. Deluca volunteered to take the meeting minutes in her absence.
7. **Adjournment:** Tocco moved to adjourn at 8:09 pm, seconded by Menghini; motion carried.

Next scheduled meeting Thursday, September 7, 2017
7:00 – 9:00 pm
Orion Center, Lower Level