

Charter Township of Orion

Oakland County, Michigan

Environmental Resources Committee Minutes

Regular Meeting, Monday, August 4, 2014

Orion Center – 10:00 AM

1. **Call to Order by the Chair:** 10:15 am by Sue Donovan
2. **Roll call:** Beth Sheridan, Mike Flood, Heather Muzzy, Sue Donovan, Chris Modovsky, George Hanley
3. **Determination of a quorum:** Yes, 5 voting members; George Hanley, alternate becomes a voting member.
4. **Public comments:** none
5. **Regular order of business**
 - Approval of minutes for June, 2014 meeting:** Mike Flood moved to approve, Beth Sheridan seconded; motion approved.
 - Approval of agenda:** After adding membership as an agenda item under New Business, Mike Flood made a motion to approve the agenda as amended, Beth Sheridan seconded; motion was approved.
 - Pending business:**

Phragmites attack strategy

 - Contacting locations to try to have them get free estimates to remove phragmites from their properties without much success.
 - George identified properties to approach
 - Information packet has been created to give property owners
 - Jeff Stout wants to get a permit that covers the whole township
 - **Modus operandi:** Township has permit; all property owners need to do is contact a contractor who would come to township offices and fill out a waiver of liability, and responsibility would be on the contractor.
 - Township attorney approved the document
 - The Chris Barnett and Jeff Stout have proposed that the township would pull a township wide permit, and that all a landowner with phragmites would have to do to go under that permit would be to contact them. The Township then contacts and subcontracts the contractor and takes care of everything except the payment, and will discuss this Modus operandi at the August 4th Township Board meeting. Our committee members questioned the ability of Orion Township to provide the personnel necessary for all the coordination that will be necessary. We concluded that the offer the township is making to the landowners is just another way to handle the problem and doesn't preclude people hiring their own contractor who will then obtain a unique permit.

- Another option is that a county wide permit can be pulled. Some contractors already have that type of permit. If a landowner contracted on their own with one of these companies, Orion Twp wouldn't be involved at all.
- Successful projects thus far: 10 1/2 acres on Voorhees by Lochmore. ITC has indicated it will treat its properties with internal resources.
- Status of Phragmites Project to date: We feel that if the township wants to take on the project it is a great thing; lots of interest has been generated in the last year or so by our committee; the word about the dangers of invasive phragmites is getting out to the public. George and Sue will continue their hard work on this project.

Website Report: Nothing to report, but there should be some new information soon.

Ordinance #73

A work in progress: A committee composed of Mike Flood, Mark Thurber, George Hanley, and Lucy Koscierzynski has met, with George providing an overview of the work done to date on the Phragmites elimination strategy as well as suggested content for an Ordinance. Mark and George had a follow-up meeting with Don Wortman of Carlisle/Wortman Associates, Inc. The reviews included examples of ordinances in place in several townships, including Acme, Peaine and Torch Lake. Multiple townships also may be interested in participating in an ordinance development process. Work will continue through the winter to get a proposal to the township by the beginning of 2015.

Recycling Issues: Heather Muzzy offered the committee the opportunity to have a table at the August 27th Farmers Market. Mike Flood moved that we participate in the August 27th Farmers Market, Heather Muzzy seconded; motion was approved. Mike Flood will man the table at 1:00pm, Chris Modovsky and Beth Sheridan will arrive around 4:00pm. Beth Sheridan will schedule a time that we can have a table in the lobby of the Orion Township library.

New Business:

- Membership: Motion by Flood, second by Muzzy, the committee recommendation for Chair Susan Donovan unto Orion Township Supervisor Chris Barnett:
 - 1.) Remove (absentee's) voting-member Tim Mack, alternate-member Tony Cook and non-voting member (graduated high school student representative) Erin Gallagher and mail a letter of appreciation for their volunteer services.
 - 2.) Appoint alternate-member George Hanley, Sr. to voting-member, term expiring 12-31-15. Appoint non-voting member Christine Modovsky to alternate-member, term expiring 12-31-15.

3.) Advertise on the township website and ONTV for one alternate-member and one high school student non-voting member. Motion was approved.

- Change Meeting time: This discussion was postponed until the end of 2014
6. **Committee comments:** Chris Modovsky brought up the fact that we should look down the road and see what issues our committee should tackle other than phragmites. The committee discussed recycling at apartment and condo complexes, reviewing ordinances to see what isn't being enforced, becoming more involved with the planning commission, and outreach to other township committees similar to ours. Mike Flood mentioned that we will do a presentation to the Township Board on October 20th.
 7. **Adjournment:** Mike Flood moved that we adjourn, and Heather Muzzy seconded; motion was approved.

The Next meeting of is Oct. 6, 2014, 10:00 OT Community Center