

CHESTERFIELD TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
MAY 24, 2022

The Secretary called the meeting of the Chesterfield Township Environmental Commission to order at 6:32PM. The Open Public Meetings Act Statement was read and compliance noted.

Present Nancy Scarafile, Jane Ryan (6:44), Roseann Greenberg, Sarah Dyson (6:35); F. Gerry Spence; Karl Braun Absent: Denise Koetas-Dale

MINUTES

March 22, 2022

A motion was made by Mr. Spence second by Ms. Greenberg to approve the March 22, 2022 meeting minutes. All were in favor; motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

Applicant for NJDEP Flood Hazard Area & Freshwater Wetlands Individual Permit.

PLANNING BOARD APPLICATIONS

No Application were submitted.

DISCUSSION

Pollinator Gardens

Mr. Braun stated that there is a concern with the slow start due to weather not being warm enough. The seed and timing was good and should get better as the air gets warmer. Regarding Charlotte Rogers Park a section has been located but he recommended to wait till fall and focus on the hedgerow at the Municipal Building. Ms. Scarafile plotted it out with DPW and Mr. Braun. Everyone agreed to wait till the fall and focus on the hedgerow.

ERI

Ms. Scarafile stated that we received the grant and she thanked Sherri Dudas for all her hard work. We received \$10,000 and are now waiting for Wendy, the CFO to make sure all the municipal rules were followed then we can set a date for the vendor that was selected.

Green Fair

Ms. Greenburg stated that there was a good turnout and 100 sunflower plants were given out along with approx. 130 cover sheets regarding give a bee a home. Mr. Braun was impressed with how many young kids (SEWA Group) were supportive and hands one showing strong energy towards the environment.

Compressor Task Force Update

There is nothing to report at this time. Ms. Dyson asked for verification that a notice isn't required to have meetings, she was informed that there is not a need for a notice. She will reach out to Mr. Sahol to get a meeting set up.

STAB Update

ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Ms. Greenberg did a soil test on the area of the hedgerow, it's recommended to put down 55lbs of lime for every 1,000 sq. ft. along with fertilizer recommendations. There will be 8 plots, 12 ft. in depth and will vary in length to fit between the existing trees leaving enough room for DPW to mow around it. She is working on a tree and shrub list but before she submits a final list she asked the Shade Tree Advisory Board for suggestions along with asking Ms. Ryan for suggestions. The project will start from the Road and work towards the property. The native flowering plants and grasses could take a couple of years to reseed themselves depending on the species then they could be thinned out and replanted to save money. Mr. Braun stated that part of the strategy is to reduce the maintenance for DPW. He offered to help Ms. Ryan come up with a list as well. Ms. Greenburg suggested using cardboard which she has collected a lot of as a weed barrier. If we know by July or August we could start the planting by late September early October.

Trex Program – The SEWA Group collected plastic however because their National Group had already registered the local group were unable to register. Because the EC is registered Sandesh gave us their first 500 lbs. which gave us our goal. Ms. Koetas-Dale is registering the GreenTeam and there is 130 lbs. already for them. Sandesh is continuing to collect so their goal will be reached in the near future.

Regarding WAWA Mr. Braun stated that the vegetation was there before the basins were put in and some of the plants are in water. There are corrections that need to be made, the Township is responsible for the punch list with the contractor.

Sandesh asked if we had any projects the SEWA group can help with. Mr. Braun suggested the old mulberry trees by the bridge at the old municipal site need to come out. Ms. Scarafile suggested setting a tidy the park day for that area.

Ms. Scarafile spoke to the Township and the EC can have another rigid plastic collection day perhaps starting at the Harvest Fest and ending it on October 8th. Everyone agreed so Ms. Scarafile will start working on it.

Ms. Greenburg stated that she was asked by resident if the Township had a community garden. It was suggested to the resident by someone else to write a letter to the Mayor. Ms. Greenburg will be working on what it would take to get a community garden started in Chesterfield. Mr. Braun suggested she reach out to the surrounding farmers to make sure that the community garden wouldn't impact their lively hood.

Ms. Ryan left the meeting at 7:00pm

INVITATION FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Braun second by Ms. Dyson to open the meeting for public comment.

Sherrri Dudas-250 Crosswicks-Ellisdale Rd. She is the co-chair for the GreenTeam and asked why the \$10,000 grant needs to be approved by the CFO when \$2,000 did not. She was informed that the CFO has to make sure all the criteria and procedures for advertising for proposals were done correctly.

Ms. Dudas stated that the grant was not done for the Environmental Commission it was done for the GreenTeam. She expressed her frustration on why she wasn't told the back story on what the grant was going to be used for. She feels that the GreenTeam should know who the proposed companies are and would like to see the RFP's. She feels that the GreenTeam should have the say and should be the ones to recommend to the Township which company they would like to see write the NRI because the GreenTeam is who was awarded the grant.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on a motion was made by Ms. Dyson second by Ms. Greenburg to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 7:360 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Aggie Napoleon, Secretary