

CHESTERFIELD TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

MARCH 25, 2014

Chairperson Veselka called the meeting of the Chesterfield Township Environmental Commission to order at 7:37 PM. The Open Public Meetings Act Statement was read and compliance noted.

Present: Elise Bremer-Nei, Michael Hlubik, Jane Ryan, Nancy Scarafile, Martha Veselka
Absent: Karl Braun and F. Gerry Spence

MINUTES

February 25, 2014

A motion was made by Mr. Hlubik seconded by Ms. Bremer-Nei to approve the February 25, 2014 meeting minutes with one change: regarding the four demonstrations for the Green Fair, the Certified Wildlife Habitat is a program of the National Wildlife Federation - not the Nature Conservancy. All were in favor and the motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

Tree City USA Special Addition Bulletin
Arbor Day Bulletin

PLANNING BOARD APPLICATIONS

PSE&G site plan for Ward Avenue Substation

The Environmental Commission's comments are as follows: The plantings indicated on the plans (all juniper) are not varied enough to protect them from infestation or disease. Chesterfield is already experiencing trouble with bagworms throughout the Township. Vary the plantings and include more native species, such as viburnum, rhododendron and Eastern Red Cedar.

DISCUSSION

Eagle Scout Project

Derek Van Veldhuisen stated that he has spoken to Mr. Braun and has been trying to contact Mr. Spence to help him with the language and technicalities of the proposal for the Crosswicks Creek Canoe Launch.

Green Fair

The Fair will take place on April 26, 2014 at the Bordentown Township Veterans Memorial/Joe Lawrence Recreation Park on Ward Avenue. Ms. Veselka stated that with one month to go, people need to complete the tasks they agreed to perform. Ms. Scarafile asked Derek if he could assist with hinging the plywood boards for four Green Fair displays. Mr. Hlubik stated that we would pay for the hinges. Ms. Scarafile and Mr.

Hlubik will contact NJ Department of Forestry for posters. The board anticipates a display on birds and animals in the community (footprints). Ms. Bremer-Nei stated that Russo's had not responded to her e mails. Ms. Scarafile will supply a phone number. Mr. Hlubik informed the board that Fernbrook is already displaying for Bordentown Township at the fair. He is working with Katona's Farm and will see if the 4-H Club at the high school is interested in participating. Ms. Scarafile was able to get Home Depot to participate. They will bring a Home Eco exhibit and a kids' craft table. Ms. Bremer-Nei will contact Brian Wilson with Burlington County to see if the Board of Chosen Freeholders will help advertise.

Ms. Ryan completed the application for the NJ Tree Recovery Campaign. Dates and amounts have changed. We will now receive 400 free seedlings to replace trees lost from Superstorm Sandy. They will be between two and seven feet tall. We will be having a separate event on Saturday, April 5th to distribute seedlings to any interested Chesterfield residents. Posters are already on display throughout the Township. It was suggested that we get the word out via Facebook as well.

Lectures and demonstration sessions at the Green Fair will be every half hour. Chesterfield is responsible for four lectures/demonstrations and Ms. Veselka is our lead. She has set up (1) Compositing - Regina Colonna, (2) Tree Care, Mulching & Pruning - still need someone, (3) Recycling - still need someone, (4) National Wildlife Federation\ Certified Wildlife Habitat - Martha Veselka. Ms. Bremer-Nei will staff a table on bicycle routes and safety tips. She will make calls to bike shops this week to see if any would like to have a display and perhaps do bicycle tune-ups at the fair.

It was suggested that the Green Team have another meeting in the coming weeks to finalize details for the Green Fair. Ms. Veselka suggested meeting on April 17th at the Chesterfield Inn. Regina Colonna suggested 6:00 PM.

Chesterfield Kids for Community Spring Clean Up

Ms. Bremer-Nei stated that Maggie Brittain forwarded invitations to the Spring Clean Up through Facebook. The event is scheduled for Sunday, March 30th at 2:00 PM at the Crosswicks Community Center. Ms. Ryan and Ms. Bremer-Nei will attend. Ms. Ryan suggests that anyone else who comes should bring gloves, rakes, pruners and trash bags.

Arbor Day

Ms. Bremer-Nei stated that Fernbrook Farm staff have agreed to do an event at the school for Arbor Day/Earth Day in the last week of April. The final date has not yet been determined. Ms. Bremer-Nei will put together a walk to school day. Instead of distributing seedlings at the school, we are holding a poster contest with the theme from the Green Fair: "Nature - It is all around." Ms. Bremer-Nei will put together a flier with rules for the poster contest and distribute it for approval. The judging will be at the Green Fair. The overall winner would win a tree donated from the tree of the month program. Ms. Scarafile will ask Derek to add another display board for poster contest winners (for a total of five).

Hamilton Township Football Stadium Proposal

Ms. Bremer-Nei had forwarded an article from The Times of Trenton about a proposal by the Hamilton TMCA to the Hamilton Township School Board to build a state-of-the-art football stadium at their branch facility on Sawmill Road. The stadium is intended to be used by the Hamilton's three high schools, which are nowhere near the Sawmill location. It will enable the schools to hold games at night as it will be lit. If it proceeds as planned, the facility will require students to be transported there from their schools for practice and will bring a large amount of vehicular traffic from outside the area on game days/nights. Ms. Bremer-Nei stated that the ECs of Chesterfield, Hamilton and Allentown should all be very concerned about 1) the impact of the traffic on local roads, which are ill-equipped to handle even current traffic levels, 2) the impact of the development on the water quality of Crosswicks Creek, located behind the existing Sawmill YMCA facility, 3) the impact of the noise and lights on wildlife and the quality of life in what is still a very rural area. It was suggested that Ms. Bremer-Nei contact other environmental commissions in the area to see if any help is needed in providing input on this proposal at future meetings. Ms. Ryan suggested that Ms. Bremer-Nei also contact the Doctors Creek Watershed Association.

NOT ON THE AGENDA

Mr. Hlubik stated that he brought up the bag worm problem at the last Township Council meeting. He said that Township Clerk Caryn Hoyer indicated that spraying was in the budget and that she will talk to Public Works Director Greg Lebak about the schedule. Mr. Hlubik also mentioned that the budget approval meeting for the Township is on April 23rd.

It was suggested that Tree Keepers reports and Sustainable Jersey status be added to the April EC agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Hlubik and seconded by Ms. Veselka to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Elise Bremer-Nei for Aggie Napoleon, Secretary