

Pitman Environmental Commission

February 1st 2018

Chairman Robert Holwitt

The regular meeting of the Pitman Environmental Commission was called to order by Bob Holwitt, on Thursday, February 1st at 7:30 p.m.

ATTENDANCE:

Bob Holwitt, Patrice Sheehan; Tom Slencamp (late); Dani Cooke; Dare Euler; Ellen Brooks ; Council Person Mike Razze, liason.

Public: Paul Bowen, 118 5th Ave

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion was made to approve January Minutes by Ellen, Ellen Brooks was left off the attendance list for January, Ali DeTolla's name was misspelled under recycling, Patrice will make these corrections, second Dani, all approved.

BUDGET: No finalized budget but we will assume that it remains the same. Mike Razze questioned the \$3500 for lake testing. CFO said we could not encumber the \$2000. This is not a change. Councilman Austin expects all budgets for 2018 to be reduced by 10%.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS :

EDUCATION: Dare Euler: Water bottles are being used, do not survive a fall very well. Has some correspondence to take care of. The bubbler near her office is up to 1600. Question as to when the filter will show red and need to be changed. Ellen said this was in the maintenance according to Dr. McAleer. Ellen has 18 more if needed.

RECYCLING: Fred Rodi – absent

AIR & WATER: Ellen Brooks – went to Borough hall to submit the vouchers but Nancy is waiting to hear about the encumbrance. Bob signed them. She was sworn in on Friday! Planning for the 3rd Grade tree team – she not heard back from Walls school. \$30 for shipping but we should have enough trees for all. They will be delivered April 19th. She hopes to hand them out the next day.

OPEN SPACE: Danielle Cooke – Email sent about events at the last meeting. We don't have enough volunteers. Josh is working on Arbor Day and Rain Garden. Then Earth Day will be in a couple of weeks. She spoke to Vanessa, Chamber of commerce, and they are thinking of a family festival day and they may have it at Betty Park, July 7th. We may be able to have a table and park cleanup. She messaged Judy about having a facebook account, but no response yet. Bob reworked wording for the sign that we wanted at Alcyon Woods and handed it to Dani. It needs approval at zoning office. Fred may be able to make a sign for us. White sign and green lettering would be consistent. Bob will send a digital copy of this. We would like to get it up by Spring. The other side of Alcyon Park has extensive erosion where the soil slips into the water near the tree that is surrounded by the bench. Water is going under the bank and it is caving in. Dare said when the water is let out of the dam it changes the flow. The dam is not working right and cannot be regulated. Tree is a few feet from the water now and it may fall in water. Water flows down the hill possibly coming from the drive leading to the apartments. A buffer would have helped. Can we request the engineers on how to stabilize it? Mike will check. Maybe bio logs. Migrating geese may have contributed to this as well. Could be sloughing where soil starts moving.

PLANNING: Tom Slenkamp: Not too much from planning. Annual reorganizing. Question about Betty Park activities.

SHADE TREE: Josh Hichner: absent but sent report via email: I have nearly completed our tree city USA application. I have numbers from Judy, Fred is working on getting me number, have yet to hear back from Andy. I have reached out to our partner at the New Jersey state forest service and she informed me we can use leaf collection towards our goal. Please have the group vote on spending \$35 for trees for Arbor Day. After a little bit of research I have confirmed the state forest nursery is the best, I recommend we send them a note stating we are not satisfied with the Spruce because it is not native.

Dare made motion to spend \$35 on trees to give away on Arbor Day, second Tom, all in favor.

As a result of concern last month about no consultation with Shade Tree Commission with 5 large sycamore trees being removed at tennis courts as well as some tree removals at Alcyon Park, Paul Blass reached out to our attorney and he forwarded the response. This basically says that the Shade Tree Commission has the final say on tree work. Bob requested that the Borough abide by the code. This has been resolved with Josh the Shade Tree Commissioner and Parks is fully on board according to Mike Razzo. Will there be replacements planted, and this too will need to be approved by the Shade Tree Commissioner as to tree selection and placement. Who will pay for this has not been determined.

Does "public property" include schools, Tom asks. It is owned by school district.

Josh will get an estimate from Groffs to weedwack to 12" height of the buffer zone motion to pay \$500 asking Parks to share the cost by Tom second Ellen – all in favor.

LIPARI/ALCYON: Bob Holwitt:

Unfinished Business Lake Sampling: Bob will get dates from Solitude

- **New Proposed Tree Protection Ordinance:** Committee still working on this.
- **Alcyon Lake Buffer** – We would like to get the buffer cut to 12" so Josh will check with Fred on equipment, or a contractor.
- **Facebook:** Josh will set up a new page with a group of administrators including Judy.
- **Alcyon Woods:** see Open Space
- **Earth Day: Bob will include signs in permit application.**
- Academy of Natural Sciences booked & will come at 11 am for Earth Day.
- Ellen has some oak tree cookies but she will make holly cookies.
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We could do terrariums again. Need to inventory supplies for this - Dani

Reach out to garden club. Dare will reach out to GCNature Club.

Bob will get permit together. The CEO of Aquarium lives in Pitman, so maybe they could participate.

We will work on getting canopies.

Lanyards with names would be a good idea for commissioners – Dani will check with Gwen.

Need to order Stick in ground Flag thing saying Pitman Environmental Commission.

Josh has ordered the trees to give away.

Master Gardeners will be invited by Josh

We have canopies. Bob will request 8 or so picnic tables to be dropped off.

Matt Weng: Armory is worse environmental shape with new pollutants. Potential people moving into Vanity, Bob's Hobbies – may be some mold.

Arbor Day 4/28/18

New Business:

Mike reported that it has not been decided about the paving of the boat ramp/football parking lot in reference to the letter that Bob sent that spoke about the need for pervious (gravel) paving. Not sure who is taking over with clean communities but he will be asking about getting more money for doing in the buffer around the lake. A lot of trash collects here. We used some of this money too to do assemblies. Dare will check what is scheduled for this year.

Glen Lake: There are no bonds that will be issued to repair dam per Matt Weng.

Public Participation: Paul Bowen here to learn, was Boy Scout and Eagle Scout respecting earth. Has been involved with community garden.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: The next meeting of the Pitman Environmental Commission will be March 1st 2018, at 7:30 p.m.

AJOURNMENT: There being no further business Dare made a motion to adjourn, second Dani & the meeting was adjourned at 9:06 pm

Sustainable Jersey: report

cc: Environmental Commissioners

Mayor Johnson and Council