

Pitman Environmental Commission
May 7th, 2020

Chairman Robert Holwitt

The regular meeting of the Pitman Environmental Commission was held on Thursday May 7th, 2020 at 7:30 electronically via Zoom.

ATTENDANCE: Bob Holwitt; Tom Slencamp; Josh Hitchner; Dare Euler; Claire Yeager; Patrice Sheehan; Councilperson Amy Rudley; Ellen Brooks

Bob: Thanks to Josh for setting up the meeting and to Judy for adding a link to the Borough web page.

PUBLIC: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion was made to approve March minutes by Dare, second Josh, all in favor.

BUDGET: April 16th Temporary Budget: Amy said final budget was passed last meeting in April. It was passed as submitted and should be finalized Monday. Patrice ordered and installed Tree Trunk Guards for Shertle Park trees \$47.60 to be reimbursed.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS:

Site Plan: Tom Slencamp: They had a Zoom meeting April 20th, historic applications, report from Councilperson Fitzpatrick and mention of an upcoming subdivision at end of E Holly about 3 properties in on left. He was unable to attend the subdivision meeting so he will get an update. Engineers report said they may need a variance with setback. Bob noted that the property across from the Salad place on Woodbury-Glassboro Rd is for sale. This is a wooded lot that is wetlands.

Shade Tree: Josh Hitchner: On Sunday submitted the ANJEC open space grant, which went on agenda for council and was approved for \$1500. The grant is to host a volunteer day at the Auditorium removing invasives and planting native pollinator plants. Date suggested a Saturday in September for planting. If not then, maybe April. Community rain garden has two active volunteers, Michelle and Linda, and there is room for new plants as they have removed mugwort. Requesting \$60 to plant. Josh made a motion to spend \$60 on wetlands plants for this spot. Second Tom, all approved. Dare has some mayapples that could be used there as well. Josh is happy to have them.

Education: Dare Euler: Not a lot going on, as we can't do much – all on hold. Patrice suggested holding a tree scavenger hunt in Betty Park. She would work with Josh and Dare to put 8 ½ x 11" signs on some of the trees with information about them in plastic sleeves. We can distribute the list of trees through the schools and Dare will work with the Superintendent to get approval. Students can write something about each tree and then submit their entry by leaving it in a box at the entry to Borough Hall. It was decided that we would have a drawing for 5 or 6 prizes that would be \$15 gift cards for local merchants. The PEC would buy these. We would have this for 3 – 5 days and make it a family activity so that social distancing can be encouraged and it could happen during a walk through the park subject to the normal park hours. This would be held towards the end of May, beginning of June. This would be our Arbor Day activity for the year. Patrice will get an event permit. Eventually we would like to get plaques similar to the ones at the Glassboro side of Glen Lake.

Recycling: Fred Rodi: No report by email: Amy has not heard anything about recycling.

Open Space: Dani Cooke: absent

Air and Water: Ellen Brooks: NJ Bluebird society project had to cancel. Trees were going to be distributed May 11 for the 3rd graders but we might want to wait till fall. Josh says they will not be available then. Patrice suggested having them available at the park for the scavenger hunt. Bob suggested a drive-by tree giveaway at the HS parking

lot for 3rd graders. 125 trees \$100. Maybe there won't be much interested in getting them. Consensus to not get them this spring.

Lipari/Alcyon: Bob heard from DEP approving his write-up for Pitman newsletter. Amy says the newsletter has not been discussed so she will ask Judy. When he hears he will get it to her.

Alcyon: No organized sports right now.

Alcyon Woods: Ellen had concerns about work that was done but not approved by the agreement with the PEC. This includes a sandtrap, a grass area that is being mowed where pesticides may have been used to clear weeds. Bob found the agreement and asked Andy if he had an explanation. His response was: "*Nothing has been cleared and grass seed was spread in the fall of 2019 on the piles of lake bottom. No treatment of any kind has been administered on the course. Please relay this information, thank you.*" He would walk the woods if anyone wants to go with them. It is getting a lot of use. Dare said sandtrap has rake in it. Bob will go there with Andy. He will let us know the date if anyone wants to go. Patrice spoke about the red plastic markers around every basket and how trampled everything is. There was no permission to do this. Dare said we should remind the disc golf people of the agreement, as Andy does not seem to know what they are doing. Bob will share this info with Andy and see what we can get done. Ellen said the blueberries and mountain laurel were marked for a nature trail, now these plants are gone. Josh said shade tree ordinance prohibits damaging plants etc. Rules about this are already posted at the entrance. Bob will contact the frisbee golf people who initiated the course to reinforce the rules.

Old Business:

Runoff along stream was graded & filled in on border between Mantua and Harrison Twp so the erosion is less.

Amy: Glen Lake Runoff – in early March a resident reported sediment entering Glen Lake and thought it came from Kmart construction. Amy spoke to construction official in Glassboro, who contacted the County. It was not fixed, they were allowed to continue working, however the back of this construction area is still a mess, so they are working with county to get it remediated. Bob walked around the back of the building and it is disappointing that this was not fixed by the contractor. Also Andy told her that they are looking into erosion in the Dell next to Chestnut Run. Dare had brought this up before. It is very dangerous and keeps getting worse. Gloucester Co Utility Authority was supposed to repair this. Josh said he thought Jared was working with someone in soil conservation.

Green Acre funds – Tom thought we got the money from the State. Amy said the solicitor has permission to negotiate for the sale.

Earth Day 2020 – may happen in fall

Secretary: Bob has followed up with Judy to start the process of hiring. Amy will follow up on this.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: The next meeting of the Pitman Environmental Commission will be June 4th at 7:30 p.m.

Meeting ended at 8:37. Josh made a motion to adjourn and Tom seconded, all members were in favor.