

## **Pitman Environmental Commission**

**November 1st, 2018**

**Chairman Robert Holwitt**

The regular meeting of the Pitman Environmental Commission was held on Thursday November 1<sup>st</sup> 2018 at 7:30.

### **ATTENDANCE:**

Robert Holwitt; Tom Slencamp; Ellen Brooks; Josh Hitchner; Patrice Sheehan; Dare Euler; Dani Cooke; Council Person Mike Razzo

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Motion was made to approve October Minutes by Dare, Second Tom, all approved.

**BUDGET:** October 26<sup>th</sup> highlights: \$50 left for trainings and seminars, total of \$125 left in lake testing. \$1,346 in Earth Day but we can work on this, Misc. \$50. Tree replacement \$209 left, special project \$541.62

### **COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS :**

**RECYCLING: Fred Rodi** – Fred sent an email stating that they have been busy beginning leaf collection. Did 76 recycling curb reinspections, only 4 were correct. They gave out informational packages to all 76. What are people doing wrong? Trash is in with recycling. The whole load is then considered trash and we have to pay for it. Bob will check with Fred for more detail on what is wrong. Is it just mistakes or disregard of guidelines? Dani saw them inspecting on Boulevard Ave. Maybe we could use \$10, \$15, \$25 prizes for each level, Elementary, Middle, and HS for a poster competition. Motion to encumber this money made by Josh, second Tom, all in favor. Awards can be given at Earth Day, due Feb 28<sup>th</sup>. Dare will make a flyer to get this out. She requests Fred to send a digital copy of what is accepted. We could post them all in Bob's Hobbies Windows or around town. We could ask Judy if they can be turned in at Boro Hall.

**AIR & WATER: Ellen Brooks**- We had encumbered \$1000 for water bottles and make up the difference from Clean Communities. \$2,185 is the total amount for 1,315 bottles. Ellen is preparing voucher. Bob will email Nancy before dropping off the paperwork. Bottles will be there tomorrow. Dare has pictures from Ceres park during one of heavy rains the water is all the way up lambs rd and also a bend in Chestnut Branch is seriously eroding. The water is orange from erosion. Mike said Parks is getting ready to talk to GCUA because the sanitary sewer line has exposed pipes. Where does soil conservation come in? Bob wants to be involved with this meeting to figure out what to do. County Conservation has been contacted but we don't know what has been done upstream. How is the dam working right now? Mike said the spillway is not working properly, but is being operated manually. The amount of water and speed is alarming when we have these events.

**OPEN SPACE: Danielle Cooke**- Still getting anecdotes about MOTUS from neighbors. Bob says not much is going on right now, no permits, no meeting. Mike said he went with Russ Johnson to luncheon and Glassboro Mayor and Harrison and made a point of how they are on the verge of something that will change the face of Gloucester County forever. Bob spoke with John Skurat about Lipari and he was not aware of anything with MOTUS. Dani said ground around Auditorium has been damaged and we might lose some trees. Barberry bushes, could be replaced with native plants. We can talk to Paul about doing this. Josh said at Historic it was agreed that we should do this next season. Feedback from "not HPFestival" about Shertle Park is that this area is not accessible. She would like to talk to Andy about this and how there are no ramps at the crosswalk, gazebo, or by tennis courts through parking lot. Last year someone got stuck

in a wheelchair. Mike said there has been discussion about access from West Ave in past. Possible Safe Routes to School/Green Team action. Agree this would be a good project.

**PLANNING: Tom Slenkamp** – 2 items: discussion on use variance from Robins Nest new owner, is park conservation, wanted to add guest rooms, and add up to 5 guest rooms for a B&B. Public response was against it. Applicant asked for recess then withdrew their application. Right now is single family home. Other discussion was about Air B&B type short term rentals. Variety of opinions about this. There are 2 in Pitman.

**SHADE TREE: Josh Hichner** – Our tree planting will be in the Spring. Money is encumbered and voucher done. He will add another tree because we have enough in the budget.

Event permit: Now we are told that we need a permit to plant trees. Do other groups, Garden Club and other groups get permits? Lights in Ballard Park in the trees? These are not permitted, screwed into the trees. He will talk to Andy about better ways to do this. Bob was out of town. Judy said that everything happening on public property needs a permit. Then all the other events by other groups should be required to apply for a permit also. Site plans should be approved by Shade Tree Commission. People who work for the borough need to follow the ordinances that require this.

**EDUCATION: Dare Euler:** Monarch parade went well as scheduled. There used to be milkweek in Alcyon Park. This year was a good year for monarchs, planted milkweed at schools. Proclamation was read.

**LIPARI/ALCYON: Bob Holwitt**-At Lipari: John Skurat from DEP reports the handoff from fed to state is Aug or Sept. 2019. They are discussing equipment, operations, permits, utilities. We can anticipate them trying to get it as clean as possible and will continue with groundwater remediation, monitoring and looking at SVE, although this has been effective and should be continued. The DEP report was delivered to Bob and the BCEE is degrading. He will call Tonya Mitchell to clarify this process more. How will MOTUS effect water usage? Does Rowan's situation change with this situation?

Park: Soccer season, playground's used. Replaced infield on baseball field. Tried to drill down to clay and replace with topsoil, grass seed.

#### **Unfinished Business:**

**Alcyon Woods Preservation:** Bob got information to complete the economic development worksheet. One number , students per housing unit, that was difficult to use. \$ 46,300 cost for new students per house, then taxes do not offset this cost. However we realize that we could have 500 more students and it would not require more funds. But there are other municipal services to be considered.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Green Team meeting : reviewed and refined PEC Annual report.

Dan Cooper sent email to Mike Razzo representing Council of Churches. Church will host breakfast about Creation Care on Easter Eve April 20<sup>th</sup> at 9 am to care for the earth, recycling etc. Dare willing to go as speaker.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** The next meeting of the Pitman Environmental Commission will be on December 6th at 7:30 p.m.

**AJOURNMENT:** There being no further business Dare made a motion to adjourn, second Josh & the meeting was adjourned at 9:25 pm

cc: Environmental Commissioners

Mayor Johnson and Council