

## **Pitman Environmental Commission**

**January 11<sup>th</sup> 2018**

### **Chairman Robert Holwitt**

The regular meeting of the Pitman Environmental Commission was called to order by Bob Holwitt, on Thursday, January 11th at 7:32 p.m. This is the first meeting of the New Year.

#### **ATTENDANCE:**

Bob Holwitt, Patrice Sheehan; Tom Slencamp (late); Dani Cooke; Josh Hichner; Ellen Brooks; Courtney Venuti; Council Person Matt Weng substituting for Mike Razze who will be our liason. Council Person Paul Blass also in attendance.

**Discussion:** Note that this meeting is to replace scheduled meeting of 1/4/18 that was cancelled due to snow. Judy was notified of this change so notifications to comply with Sunshine Law could be published.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Motion was made to approve December Minutes by Dani, discussion about adding more about the tree removals at Alcyon Park across from the garage that were not approved and Tree Commissioner was not consulted as required by Borough Code 2:63.2. Corrections will be made, all approved.

**BUDGET:** Nothing new. We were not permitted to encumber \$2000 for lake testing, so Bob worked with Nancy to have the \$2000 added to our budget for 2018 to cover the costs.

**Public Participation:** none

#### **COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS :**

**SHADE TREE: Josh Hichner:** Josh requested 5 quotes for trees and is still waiting on 4 quotes. Would like to redo the raingarden during our Earth Day activities. He is also trying to locate the master plan for this.

Several 150 year old sycamore trees were removed from Shertle Park near the tennis courts. Questioned why? The Shade Tree Commission has full control over tree removal on Borough property by code. The Commission was not contacted about this which is in violation of

#### **2-63.2 Powers of the Shade Tree Commission.**

The Shade Tree Commission shall have the power to:

a. Exercise full and exclusive control over the regulation and care of shade trees and ornamental shrubbery now located in any:

1. Public highway or right-of-way.

2. Park or parkway, except such as are excluded pursuant to Chapter XXV, Trees, including the planting, trimming, spraying, fertilizing, care and protection thereof.

This is the second time in two months that this has been violated. Paul Blass will check with Andy to make sure he understands. Tom Slencamp was asked about possible roots disturbing the tennis courts. He said there was some evidence of that in one corner but only at the edge not interfering with play. It was also noted that if this was the reason for removal they could have considered root pruning of the tree to solve the problem. Sycamores are very resilient to pruning. Tom said the branches have been pruned in the past away from the courts.

Expenses of all tree related costs for 2017 are needed for Tree City USA application from Public Works, Parks and Rec. Environmental spent \$800. Paul Blass has a budget of \$20,000 for Parks.

**EDUCATION: Dare Euler: (absent)** She is working with Denise Everett at school for exhibits for Earth Day.

**RECYCLING: Fred Rodi – absent but sent report via email:** I will not be in attendance but would like to fill you in. Middle School, High School and Memorial School are in full swing with Trex challenge. Our goal is to collect 500 pounds of plastic bags in return we will receive a Trex bench. We are at 250 pounds now. The challenge is over in March. I went to Memorial School and spoke to Mrs Ali DeTolla's classes regarding storm water education. Also her classes participated in a poster contest. They all will receive munchkins and winner will get homework pass. I've started to reach out to businesses that recycle in town for annual recycling report using 3rd parties. 32 businesses contacted and results coming in slowly. Most of our collected leaves have been recycled to 4 Seasons farm and Monarch Environmental at no cost to borough. E waste is being disposed of at no cost and we will be using a vendor that will collect e waste at no cost to borough.

**AIR & WATER: Ellen Brooks –** The school district posted a thank you for the bottles – great success. We only had 2 left over – then some said they didn't get enough. She had to order 20 more \$ 64.92. She will get reimbursed. In contact with principals involved with 3<sup>rd</sup> grade free tree program. They need to be picked up at Parvin or shipped. It's about 4 or 5 packs for each school. She will get a number of packs and we could pay for shipping. Schools have to request, then we could pay. Josh made motion to spend up to \$100, second Dani, all in favor.

**OPEN SPACE: Danielle Cooke –** Arbor Day and Earth Day. Pine Barrens documentary could be interesting to show – need 400 people to attend. Maybe could use the HS Auditorium. Total cost is \$1200. Perhaps we could get a grant from the sustainable Jersey. Pitman Golf course? Dani will reach out to find location. Chamber of Commerce is on board. There would be an orchestra and speakers. Earth Day of service: Lake and creek clean up and macro invertebrate study. Could do in same weekend. Trail Cleanup could be a 3<sup>rd</sup> activity. Replant raingarden on a different day. This could be opening day for community garden. May 18<sup>th</sup> is probably Craft Day. Arbor Day April 27 – could do raingarden. April 28<sup>th</sup>. May 5<sup>th</sup> could do Betty Park/Alcyon Lake cleanup etc. and biggest tree search in woods. 5/19 Tree giveaway – Wetlands or other. Seedlings are ready to be ordered. Tubelings purchased in past but not a good selection. May be better to get bare root to get native trees. What is status of sign for Alcyon Woods? Bob will need to find his email to get it made. Would love to get it done before Spring.

**PLANNING: Tom Slenkamp:** A couple of parking issues discussed about overnight parking, and also parking in front yards. There does not seem too much of a direction in ordinance. Light rail – Council person Austin met with DOT and drawings were shown, but it may be a couple of years before it gets started, some think 10 years. Requested Tom to forward group the drawings that he has. Updated maps on bike trail from the county. Nice overview of county and more details for between Pitman and Glassboro – all off-road. Waiting for state to bless and give funding. Dani spoke about the tree canopy cover and problem with no consultation about tree removals at Shertle Park.

**LIPARI/ALCYON: Bob Holwitt:** Solitude agreement has been signed and coordinating with Nancy for tax exemption. Just heard from Chris. Paperwork will be completed then can be scheduled. Suggested have someone come maybe at our lake cleanup day, or at our Environmental Commission meeting. Bob will ask about May 5<sup>th</sup>. Bob has not met with Tonya Mitchell yet on questions about the report. On the paving plans for boat ramp area mentioned in the Borough Newsletter the PEC advises that this should not be paved and remain as a gravel area so as not to create runoff into the lake. We will draft a letter to Mayor and Council with our recommendations. Have not heard more about Glen Lake. Patrice mentioned plans for Newton Lake to dredge – will try to find link in Inquirer.

#### **Unfinished Business:**

- **Lake Sampling:** Bob will get dates from Solitude

- **New Proposed Tree Protection Ordinance:** Committee will work on this after New Year.
- **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:**

**New Business:**

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

**AJOURNMENT:** There being no further business Tom made a motion to adjourn, second Josh & the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm

cc: Environmental Commissioners

Mayor Johnson and Council