

## **Pitman Environmental Commission**

**October 3, 2019**

**Chairman Robert Holwitt**

The regular meeting of the Pitman Environmental Commission was held on Thursday October 3, 2019 at 7:40.

**ATTENDANCE:** Bob Holwitt; Patrice Sheehan; Dani Cooke; Mike Razzo

**PUBLIC:** Meghin Rollins, [americorpswma18@gmail.com](mailto:americorpswma18@gmail.com): As a Watershed Ambassador her role is to increase education about water quality. She can do presentations and projects. They also do water body assessments by collecting insects and visual assessments. Bob asked about the partnership projects. Nature conservancy has a grant for trees that we could coordinate with groups of volunteers. Right now she is doing education with 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> graders in Wenonah with parents. They will collect and identify macroinvertebrates. She handed out brochures with her business card and we discussed different things we are interested in.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** No Motion to approve September minutes. No Quorum

**BUDGET:** As of September 27, 2019 unexpended amounts are \$264.71-Secretary, \$50-training, \$3500-Alcyon Lake Testing, \$1772.29-Earth Day Events, \$50-misc charges, \$800-tree replacement, \$744.83-special projects. Line items that were over-budget (or in wrong category) are \$462.14-materials and supply, \$25-Dues and subscriptions.

### **COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS :**

**PLANNING: Tom Slenkamp:** absent sent a report via email: Not much from Planning Board to report. Most of discussion at Sept. meeting was related to Historic Commission. I did notice in watering the baskets for Garden Club this week that the tree directly in front of the Yoga Studio is severely leaning out into street, and may need to be tied back (not sure who would do that). Also hoping that replacement trees are on the way via grant mentioned by Jim Pierpont earlier this year.

**SHADE TREE: Josh Hitchner:** Absent: Reminder that we are planting perennials in buffer at Betty Park, starting at 8 am and then planting 3 birches at Glen Lake this Saturday October 5<sup>th</sup>. Mike said parks planted the birches today. Andy admits that he would prefer some guidance. Patrice said they could have called.

**EDUCATION: Dare Euler:** absent. Bob explained how Dare teaches a lot of similar things to the Americorps Watershed Ambassador. Bob thinking about a presentation about Climate Change and a project. Bob will discuss with Dare.

**RECYCLING: Fred Rodi** absent: Will be starting the Trex plastic challenge soon. Leaf collection has started.

**AIR & WATER: Ellen Brooks:** absent. Bob wants to follow up with her on Trail blazing in Alcyon Woods. #1 US Disc Golfer had a picture of his brand at Alcyon Woods which was shared widely in Social Media. It is also on the Disc Golf App. Pitman is hosting October 19<sup>th</sup> SJ Open for Disc Golf. May have 75 people competing.

**OPEN SPACE: Danielle Cooke:** Shertle Park: McBurney field. April Miller in Cheer has said they use one section along the fence when they practice but others have said they use the open space between the pump track and basketball courts more often. Andy has approved planting 12 trees in the area by the McBurney field but we may hold off planting one or two until we can get buy in and ask for planting help from the Cheerleaders. Patrice also scoped out sites for 4 by the tennis court and playground. They will not be right next to the courts to avoid leaf litter, and the trees will not overhang the playground as that is a safety violation. 3 or 4 could be planted by the Basketball court in the upper level as well as 3 by the volley ball sand pit. This totals 25 trees at a wholesale price of approximately \$40 each. They are from 4-8 feet in 7 gallon containers from Octararo's Nursery in PA. We will be sharing shipping costs with 2 other groups and the delivery will be the week of October 21<sup>st</sup>. \$800 will be used from tree replacement, and \$300 from special

project. Patrice will order them and we will get an event permit for planting Saturday Nov 2<sup>nd</sup>. We will recruit volunteers from Scouts, Wall School and Sports groups who use that area, asking people to bring their own shovels, gloves and reusable waterbottles. Dani will get emails of the leaders of these groups.

Dani has coordinated a clean communities grant for \$500 for web site and mural arts with a clean-up event on Oct 26 8-11 am to remove invasives and support oaks & mulch for the area by bleachers at McBurney Field.

**LIPARI/ALCYON: Bob Holwitt:** emailed John Skurat asking him for update since state took over. Did he review annual report? Did not hear back yet. Will ask about tour. He will ask Chris from Solitude about bank stabilization. Fall sports happening. Bob sent the schedule and instructions for buffer cutback to Dan. Dani asked Jess Everett if Rowan might be interested in a project at Alcyon but they are not.

Alcyon Park: Soccer, football, walking etc.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**By Laws:**

**PEC Web Page:** Some changes were made, but more need to be done for accuracy. Patrice will contact Andy Fox.

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

**AJOURNMENT:** Dani made motion to adjourn, second, Bob, there being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm

cc: Environmental Commissioners

Mayor Johnson and Council

Email minutes to Meghin [americorpswma18@gmail.com](mailto:americorpswma18@gmail.com) when ready.