

Pitman Environmental Commission

June 6, 2019

Chairman Robert Holwitt

The regular meeting of the Pitman Environmental Commission was held on Thursday June 6th, 2019 at 7:30.

ATTENDANCE: Robert Holwitt; Patrice Sheehan; Tom Slencamp; Dare Euler; Ellen Brooks; Council Liason Mike Razze

PUBLIC: Bethany Cope wants to find out what's going on in town, Claire Yeager moved from Pennsauken, background in Env. Science and interested in what's going on, works with site remediation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion made by Dare to approve May minutes; second, corrections: none, all in favor approved.

BUDGET: COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS :

Budget: finalized as of May 31st approved 3500 for lake testing, may want to use for bank stabilizing. See details of budget on last page.

AIR & WATER: Ellen Brooks: PFNA report in water. Fred said to contact Mat Padden from water department. Looking for updated reports online. We would like to work with some kids in the schools, she is finding out who might be interested. Dare said each elementary school used to adopt a water body and worked on quality and species diversity, doesn't know if they have a HS environmental club. Bob will contact Mike at the academy and see if they have something, but it might be expensive. Discuss field trips to Scotland Run, or bringing county staff to Pitman.

OPEN SPACE: Danielle Cooke: absent: I won't be at the meeting this month as it's Visalli's first night at their Pop-up Produce stand in Ballard Park and I'm helping with set-up and breakdown. Stop by before the meeting to get some produce, though!

PLANNING: Tom Slenkamp: Nothing from planning board, but went to Tuesday Night Out at Alcyon Park, animals, food, Fred had a table with recycling. Police Dept. put it on & it was well organized and great activity. The Merryman Pub has worked out its insurance issues and has started construction. Hope to be open by end of Summer. Will not do a mezzanine. Parking Lot behind belongs to Boro other than 3 or 4 spots. Ramp will be installed for ADA up 1st Ave.

SHADE TREE: Josh Hichner absent: sent report via email: Sadly I will not be at our meeting tomorrow. I have a Thursday night class that has interfered for the past two months. I plan on sending an event permit to council to get our trees planted on 6/16. Discussion. Bob will follow up with Josh. Parks and rec will be planting trees per our agreement re disc golf. Tom reminded about tree removals at Shertel Park. Discuss labeling of trees in Betty Park. Public asked about Dog Park

EDUCATION: Dare Euler: Want to expand beyond schools and will talk to Ellen.

RECYCLING: Fred Rodi absent: sent report via email: Please check out informational link from DEP regarding recycling. <https://www.nj.gov/dep/dshw/recycling/promotools.html> This link has been posted on Facebook. Recycling is still a major issue. We plan on curb inspections soon. At this time I have nothing further to report.

Bob discussed how little we can recycle.

LIPARI/ALCYON: Bob Holwitt: has been in touch, not heard from EPA about transition in September. Waiting for Tanya to get back. Then will follow up with the State. They will continue with the extraction for at least 6 months but we don't know what they will do after that. What do they project will happen with the BCEE levels if the process shuts down?

Alcyon Park: Looks nice. Deck that overlook the meadow is somewhat overgrown. Some clean communities activities and some HS Juniors into disc golf who want to help clean up there. We would like to know about this.

Lake buffers look good but on Carr ave erosion is getting worse. Bob has spoken to Solitude and he thinks it will be expensive. Wants to look at getting bio logs. Parks could provide manpower. We discussed where we might get them. Suggestion to keep pedestrians off the area until plants are established. Suggest asking Josh. Bob asked if we could participate on hiring new Parks Superintendent. Borough already has a procedure for hiring. We are hoping that the new hire will work cooperatively with PEC. Interview will be this week with recommendation on Monday for the hire. 6 applications, 4 experiences not related to grounds work. Patrice suggested reaching out to CCC ornamental horticulture program for graduates.

Unfinished Business:

Alcyon Woods Preservation: Insurance fund – Mike Raze – Rob Garish from JA Montgomery of JIF and asked about signage that would direct walkers onto Disc Golf course. He said that this will increase liability of Borough. Should we have signs directing people? Discussed marking with a blaze mark on the trees but not on the “fairways”. Spoke about golfers have to wait for hikers to pass. Can we define with down trees. This makes sense for people who want to do a circular path. We can work with new superintendent. Ellen asked for bird houses and bat houses to be added. Where do we stand with Green Acres? It is working through the process and waiting to purchase land around park. Mrs. Young was away. We are working on a low interest loan as well as matching funds. We could incorporate this area into walking path.

NEW BUSINESS: Dare asked if anyone has walked along Chestnut Branch where wooded area and soccer fields are. Sewer line is exposed. It is so eroded that there is almost no path. The GCUA was supposed to repair this. We are losing trees to erosion. It is also a safety issue. Mike will follow up with Judy and Andy to get in touch with GCUA.

PEC Web Page: everyone reviewed & made updates – Patrice will ask Andy to make changes.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: The next meeting of the Pitman Environmental Commission will be August 1st at 7:30 p.m. Patrice will let Judy know that we will not be meeting in July.

AJOURNMENT: There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm

cc: Environmental Commissioners

Mayor Johnson and Council