

## **Pitman Environmental Commission**

**March 1<sup>st</sup> 2018**

### **Chairman Robert Holwitt**

The regular meeting of the Pitman Environmental Commission was called to order by Bob Holwitt, on Thursday, March 1st at 7:30 p.m.

#### **ATTENDANCE:**

Bob Holwitt, Patrice Sheehan; Tom Slencamp Dani Cooke; Ellen Brooks ; Josh Hichner; Council Person Matt Weng , liason substitution for Mike Razze.

**Public:** Jason James, 91 Circle Ave. on the Recreation Committee says that they are in support of the Environmental Commission.

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

Motion was made to approve February Minutes by Ellen, change wording from Shade Tree Commissioner to Commissioner , second Tom, all approved.

**BUDGET:** Still operating under our old budget. Now have official paperwork for ANJEC membership – will be \$350 for 7 of us plus \$25 for associates Courtney Venuti and Patrice and council liason. \$425. Patrice asked Judy to clarify policy on expenditures. Any purchases above \$2,625 require 3 quotes in writing. If it's over \$17,500 then you need to advertise for a formal bid process and supply a bid package. Most of our purchases are below these amounts and it's important to get a voucher as the first step. The commission is mindful of being good stewards of public funding so we have located wholesale nurseries with the best prices, that require the trees to be picked up. This can be done with approval of the council liason and the PEC.

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

**RECYCLING: Fred Rodi** – absent. Ellen questioned whether there would be any spraying this season for pesticides. She will ask Fred to start.

**AIR & WATER: Ellen Brooks** Trees will be shipped 4/16 and arrive 4/19 for 3<sup>rd</sup> grades to her house. She will let us know if she needs help with distributing or prepping. Water bottle extras are still at her house.

**OPEN SPACE: Danielle Cooke** There is a citizen group organizing about Alcyon Woods. Eric Molenhauer, SJ Trust, Christine Nolan, Vanessa James lives nearby also and Matt Blake are interested in doing a guided walk possibly during school spring break. We have permit and we can sponsor. We agreed. Discussion on whether it could be geared towards children. We could have several walks on the day. There has been more discussion from newcomers about sale of this property. Concern that Parks are willing to support this. Mike Razze sent an email about meeting with engineer about the erosion at Alcyon Lake. What would be the cost - \$600 to look at it & assess situation – he wants PEC to pay for this. Matt Weng confirmed this. We discussed using biologists and planting a buffer with volunteers. We already have plants, may need extra woody plants. We agreed to try this before calling in an engineer. Josh can take this to his graduate class and get feedback from his professor. We will come up with a plan and estimate of the costs. We would also like to discuss a dock to enable people to continue fishing. Bob will talk to Andy. Judy said we need to use the Boro page for facebook.

**PLANNING: Tom Slenkamp** Pretty quiet. Maybe a subdivision on Laurel Ave. Ideas about businesses that are not occupied. Questions about Sony. Nothing optimistic longterm. Matt Weng said council discussed naming Sony as an area in need of redevelopment that could be purchased by eminent domain. Owner is considering this. There is some contamination under the parking lot, if not disturbed it is not a problem. Part is being used as warehouse. Assessed as a vacant building.

**SHADE TREE: Josh Hichner:** Tree City Application went in and we counted \$21,058.99 for tree-related expenses which is enough to earn Tree City Status and our state forester says it should be good for year 14 or 15. He is asked to look at a tree next to 158 - 152 West by 7<sup>th</sup>. Tree on right is clearly a removal. Other tree closer to the house looks pretty good. Recommend getting this one evaluated. Shade tree commission motion made to remove the stump and evaluate, Dani and second Ellen.

Josh has been going to the Garden Club meetings and recommends we provide them a list of plants. Maybe a list of plants not recommended would also be good. Also spoke about the plantings by the new parking area. This goes along with the green maintenance resolution.

Money is encumbered for \$600 for the nursery so we will replant Harry's tree and some other trees that were planned.

Wants to recognize Fred and Andy for being so helpful towards numbers for Tree City USA award.

**EDUCATION: Dare Euler: absent.**

**LIPARI/ALCYON: Bob Holwitt:** Contacted Andrew, chief engineer, for more info on the summary on BCEE – has not heard back from him. There was a Public notice a week or so ago to satisfy Superfund Law. Call in with Solitude about testing – they are interested in Earth Day, so we will finalize this – they have done this in the past. We believe this would be free.

### **Unfinished Business**

- **Lake Sampling:** Bob will get dates from Solitude
- **New Proposed Tree Protection Ordinance:** Committee still working on this.
- **Alcyon Lake Buffer** – We would like to get the buffer cut to 12" so Josh will check with Fred on equipment, or a contractor.
- **Alcyon Woods:** see Open Space
- **Earth Day:** Banner that we want to buy will go up on the day. Does this need to be on permit. Academy of Wildlife and Science booked & will come at 11 am for Earth Day.

School projects coming – Dare is working on. Will reach out again.

We could do terrariums again.

Tree cookies – we can ask Ellen to do more, need more for ribbon. Motion to spend \$200 in supplies for Earth Day by Ellen, second by Dare, all in favor.

Ellen and Dani will check what we have including Bird feeders.

Reach out to garden club. Dare will reach out to GCNature Club.

Bob will get permit together. The CEO of Aquarium lives in Pitman, so maybe they could participate.

We will work on getting canopies.

Lanyards with names would be a good idea for commissioners

Stick in ground Flag thing would be good to order saying Pitman Environmental Commission. Dare will send link.

- **Arbor Day 4/28/18**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** The next meeting of the Pitman Environmental Commission will be April 5th 2018, at 7:30 p.m.

**AJOURNMENT:** There being no further business Dare made a motion to adjourn, second Dani & the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm

cc: Environmental Commissioners

Mayor Johnson and Council