

Pitman Environmental Commission

March 7th, 2019

Chairman Robert Holwitt

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

ATTENDANCE:

Robert Holwitt; Patrice Sheehan; Josh Hitchner; Dani Cooke; Tom Slencamp; Dare Euler; Council Person Matt Weng; Countney Venuti

PUBLIC:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion made by Dani to approve January meeting; second Tom all in favor approved. Patrice will also submit the notes for February meeting that was not official to council.

BUDGET: Waiting to get finalized budget. \$262 for trees, \$525 for earth day, \$918.75 for Alcyon Lake Testing we have some other money.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS :

SHADE TREE: Josh Hichner – He and Dare went to event sponsored by Chamber of Commerce as a volunteer outreach. Got some names for spring projects. Applied for Tree City USA for 16th yr 28,140 spent on tree care with a population of 8,846 in Pitman. This is \$3.18 per capita spending so we qualify, so we qualify. Stephen Weist inquired about 2 trees on Oak Ave, but they are on his property. Request \$25.62 for supplies for volunteer event and will be used for Earth Day. Motion to approve by Josh, second Dare, approved. Josh has order form for 98 trees for earth day for \$35 we will request redbuds, Dare motion, Tom second, all in favor approved.

EDUCATION: Dare Euler: Flyer was given to board for poster contest about recycling. Board is meeting tonight so we should get it approved quickly. She usually asks for help for earth day from teachers, but not holding out for this help with budget shortage. Bob mentioned a recycle art project at the ACUA we could adapt.

RECYCLING: Fred Rodi – sent a report to Bob: We have delivered flyers to all homes except for small area of North Broadway and some of apartment complexes. Omni as of last week has informed us they will no longer be accepting #5 plastics. We took a tour of Omni last Friday. Recycling conditions as a whole have not improved there is a great deal of plastic bags being put in recycling. Storm Water inlet cleaning and inspection has been completed as well as outfalls, both inlets and outfalls will be plotted for longitude and latitude and submitted to the county for safety in case of spills that may be hazardous that could enter inlets or water ways. Recycling report is ongoing and tonnage is being documented for DEP report. We would like to thank Patrice for helping distribute recycling flyers it was greatly appreciated.

Bob asks if there is a way to educate about reducing packaging. Dani has idea about using glass containers with a deposit for milk – Amish market and Whole Foods. Maybe we could get a local market to partner with a dairy like the Amish. Pilot projects that send containers back. Matt said we could use Clean Communities funds for education, this problem is impacting the Pitman budget. Could we get a mini grant? VFW is overwhelmed with problems of how not to use plastic bags when they have events. Dani will see if Whole Foods could do an educational program. Memorial is recycling used shoes that are distributed overseas. Textile recycling is also at Memorial school. We will ask if chamber of commerce wants to participate. Dani will see what is being used in local businesses and make suggestions at downtown restaurants how to reduce waste.

AIR & WATER: Ellen Brooks absent: report by email: The three elementary schools in town have agreed to participate in the NJDEP's Third Grade Tree Team program again this year. I spoke to Mike over at the NJDEP's nursery and he said we could have flowering dogwoods or oaks. He would try to get us the dogwoods but he wasn't sure they would have enough so the oaks are on standby in case. The cost for shipping came to \$30. They'll be delivering them to my house approximately April 24th and I hope to have them to the schools by that Friday the 26th.

I emailed Andy Fox about the park spraying for this year asking him what the plan was and if they would consider using more environmentally and people friendly products. I haven't heard back yet. They usually spray in April and the previous two years I was unable to get them to agree to amend the products they're using. I hope to hear back from him soon.

Discuss that this is most likely done by contractors. It was also noted that the erosion in the stream exposing the sewer pipe has not been fixed yet by the county.

OPEN SPACE: Danielle Cooke- July 18th pop up park we could participate with the green team by making some pollinator houses with bamboo as a craft. Ellen will help with this. We will collect cans for this, soup, diced tomatoes. May need 40-50.

Also the farmers market will be there every Thursday 6-8. Grandson Mike Visalli is enthused to participate. Budget boxes could be available with what he can share, similar to a CSA. Discounts for the food pantry can be set up.

PLANNING: Tom Slenkamp – Last month had 5 applications, approved 3. 95% about use variance on Oak Ave because of a house burning, wants to move house over a couple of feet. Next month will deal with bulk variance about setbacks.

LIPARI/ALCYON: Bob Holwitt- today Bob got email from Thomas O'Neill bureau chief for DEP site remediation. Bob asked if they would continue with SVE – yes they will do this for 6 months and evaluate effectiveness and then decide. What role would corps of engineers play – there are no plans for this. They may assist with review reports. Also, they will notify Pitman as needed, no resources for annual report, but will ask for a community relations person to contact us. Rowan University was on site recently to evaluate the polluted site as a parking garage for the sports fields. Bob thinks this might have some problems. Target is August or by the end of year. Patrice will attach email – see below.

Park is quiet right now.

Motus: No movement . Idea has been floated about property near orchard, Boro could get green acres funding to purchase this. Would need to stay a park.

Mike Razze: Matt reported about a presentation of plan for Sony, including retail space, senior housing, and esports venue – very preliminary. Owner is good with it, but it might be a couple of years away. This would be good for boro ratables. Conservation easement would not be touched. Budget is due before the end of this month. PEC budget will most likely stay the same.

Unfinished Business:

Alcyon Woods Preservation: Disc golf course. Bob met with Andy and walked the course. He has pictures. Begun to construct the T-pads (2) completed. Extra trees have been removed because they were in poor condition. These were not approved by Josh. We have not received the plans yet. Adam is preparing this. Bob expressed that the walking trails need work. He asked environmental members lay out this trail. Ellen would like to be there and Patrice. Dani said you can now see the trails and T-pads from Lambs Rd. Dani feels they have taken huge liberties. We asked for permeable pavers and what is used it is not what we agreed. We do not want any more trees taken down. Why do Parks not comply with the ordinance requiring approval of the Shade Tree Commission? We have explained this to them several

times recently. Concern also about how trees are pruned. Bob said to contact Andy. Matt said that this would be an opportunity to meet with Councilman Razze, Andy, Jared and Bob. Bob will contact them. Not going to make any new trails. This Spring there will be 9 holes completed. We do not want mulch on the trails.

NEW BUSINESS:

Earth Day 2019: 3rd Saturday of May – May 18th. Academy of Natural Sciences are available that date and will use last year's money for it. We have event permit – Bob will get it in for approval.

Dani says the Boy Scouts will do a soil erosion, water runoff project and they may have that for display. 2020 Chamber of Commerce would like to join forces and make event separate from Craft Fair. Maybe use sunset auditorium and Shertle park.

Buffers: Solitude has some good resources for buffer maintenance. Josh and Patrice will flag buffer so it will not get mowed. Erosion is worse. Floating Dock may need a permit. Discussed some dock designs. We will come up with a plan. Apply for grant for money. Requested whole side to be a buffer.

MOVIE NIGHT: we will hold off on spending money on this. Dani will talk to Tina-may need to do in September or later. May be able to do in Fall. No budget.

Web Page: will review next month.

ANJEC training is March 16th 9-1:30 at Riverwinds. Reservations made for Mike Razze, Tom Slencamp, Dani Cooke, Dare Euler, Josh Hitchner, Patrice Sheehan. This is free with our ANJEC membership.

NJAmerican Water Grant: Patrice will apply for erosion control at Alcyon Lake and dock.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: The next meeting of the Pitman Environmental Commission will be on April 4th at 7:30 p.m.

AJOURNMENT: There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm

cc: Environmental Commissioners

Mayor Johnson and Council

Below is a copy of the email about Lipari. The second email shows Tom O'Neill responses to Bob's questions in **bold**:

On Mar 7, 2019, at 2:06 PM, O'Neill, Tom <Tom.O'Neill@dep.nj.gov> wrote:

Mr. Holwitt,

Apologies for the delay in responding to you, it was entirely my fault.

Steve Wohleb will be the NJDEP O&M Manager after the transition to NJDEP lead you can always contact me directly as well. Steve will have the latest data and plant operational information where I will have the information about where we are going with the direction of the site. My role includes, information about when or if we are planning on changing operations at the site, or if third parties are taking an interest in the site such as Rowen University, policy matters, etc.

The Office of Community Relations is also available as a point of contact at 609-984-3081, <https://www.state.nj.us/dep/srp/community/> .

I have answered your questions as best I can at this time, see below. If you would like to talk about your thoughts and concerns please give me a call.

Tom

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On Feb 7, 2019, at 11:50 AM, Robert Holwitt <rbholwitt@comcast.net> wrote:

Good morning Steve

I'm Bob Holwitt, Chairperson of the Pitman Environmental Commission. I'm responsible to update the Mayor, Council and community as to the status of the Lipari Landfill cleanup. I got your name and email from Tanya Mitchell at USEPA.

With the upcoming transfer of the site from USEPA to NJDEP, I have several questions as to NJDEP plans for site operations.

1. According to the latest annual report for the Lipari Landfill, BCEE concentrations are decreasing; this is apparently due to the ongoing operation of the Soil Vapor Extraction (SVE) system. The report recommends maintaining the operation of the SVE. Is NJDEP planning to continue operating the SVE system? **The NJDEP plans on operating the SVE system as the EPA has for some period of time, most likely six months. During that time we will evaluate the system effectiveness and make changes as the data indicates.**

2. At present the Corp of Engineers provides technical assistance and oversight for the cleanup. What role will the Corp have upon transfer to NJDEP? **The NJDEP is not planning on having any role for the USACE post the transition period. The USEPA may have them work on the on-going Five-year Review Reports, those are USEPA reports, you would have to ask them if they plan on using the USACE for that or any other work.**

3. How will NJDEP notify Pitman and what type of community outreach will there be as to the cleanup status? **Typically with a site like this in its later stage in the cleanup process NJDEP communicates with the affected municipalities as needed around significant milestones or events. Unfortunately, we will not have the same sort of resources available to put together reports such as those produced annually by USACE, however we can certainly make monitoring data available to you on an annual basis if that is what you are interested in. If you would like I can ask someone from our Community Relations office to touch base with you as this transfer gets closer to reality to discuss your involvement with the site.**

4. Has there been any contact between NJDEP and the developers of the MOTUS Performance Center (<https://www.edpsoccer.com/motus>) that will be adjacent to the Landfill? **No but EPA hosted representatives from Rowan University on site several months ago assessing the suitability of the landfill and associated property as a parking facility for athletic fields, NJDEP did attend that inspection and meeting.**

I'm looking forward to hearing from you. Thanks.

Robert Holwitt

Chairperson, Pitman Environmental Commission

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