

Pitman Environmental Commission

April 5th 2018

Chairman Robert Holwitt

The regular meeting of the Pitman Environmental Commission was called to order by Bob Holwitt, on Thursday, April 5th at 7:30 p.m.

ATTENDANCE:

Bob Holwitt, Patrice Sheehan; Tom Slencamp Dani Cooke; Josh Hichner; Council Person liason Mike Razze.(late)
Courtney Venuti, Dare Euler

Public Paul Bowen 118 5th, Matt Blake 616 Vassar Ave, Eric & Chris Mollenhauer

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion was made to approve March Minutes by Dani , all approved.

BUDGET: Nancy as of Tuesday is mailing \$425 ANJEC dues for 7 of us. We want to purchase signs for Alcyon Woods, cost is \$42.50 each and we will get 2 with\$15.00 shipping. Motion to approve \$100 to cover these costs from from Dare, second Josh, all in favor.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS :

RECYCLING: Fred Rodi – Saturday PW is open to the public to drop off trash, textiles, and mulch can be picked up. Bob will send Fred's report....

AIR & WATER: Ellen Brooks - absent

OPEN SPACE: Danielle met with Eric about a guided nature hike, Paul was interested also. June 9th might be a better date – through park and Alcyon Woods. Dani getting the permit and will make a flyer and get it to the school. 12:30 could be a good time. Registration discussed. Could potentially have little league concession stand could be open if we asked. Eric suggests meeting with potential guides ahead of time to do a walk through.

PLANNING: Tom Slenkamp - Question about the armory declared as a bird sanctuary. March minutes from the Garden Club the Mayor said a portion was. Eric said it's about 7 acres, maybe a red shouldered hawk could be there. Mike asked the PEC because of a report with a new contaminant found and a new process will be started – Council needs help understanding what is going on. He will share report with Bob.

SHADE TREE: Josh Hichner: Sat. April 14th – clean communities with Rowan Students around rain garden. Will coordinate with Fred. 9 am - 28th will be planting day and we will plant a tree in the circle. Need proclamation. Josh will ask Judy. Can also do one for Earth Day. He has the permit. Needs to encumber money. He will send email to Nancy with amounts \$100 – 01-27-335-506-tree replacement. If she has the vendor contact she will get it signed. Motion to do this – Dani, second Dare, all approved. \$500 at North Creek needed for plants - motion Dare, second Josh, all approved 0127335510 – special projects. \$100 seeds – Ernst – motion Tom, second Dani, all approved – special projects. Confirmation of Tree City 15 years!! Harry 's replacement tree was picked up by Patrice at Rivendell Nursery. Requested help to plant once the ground in Betty Park is less saturated. Public Works will bring tree over, it is being stored at Public Works. Tom offered to help.

EDUCATION: Dare Euler mulch war going on. She has planted the gardens around memorial school. Last year they used the dyed mulch. Not good. Dare wanted Leaf Mulch from Boro garage which is free. But they delivered dyed mulch. Does green grounds policy cover this? Eric Mollenhauer is going to approach the school board.

LIPARI/ALCYON: Bob Holwitt: No more info. Summary report – no more info. Alcyon park – Spring sports. Parks & Recs have trimmed buffer to about 3". Spoke to Andy about the erosion. He is looking to stabilize. Dani said the erosion continues and a chunk of the bank has disappeared. A resident reached out to Mike about treatment of Algae. Explained that it is Hydrilla – Herbicides is one solution, but it is toxic. Not a permanent fix. Nutrients are helping invasive weeds. There is not a good solution. The State says the fish population is healthy. Patrice asked Mike if he could check with Parks to remove picnic tables which are girdling the trees in Betty Park. In the past we have cut the tables away from the tree trunks, but the trees are getting too big now. Matt says there are about 12 tires laying across Carew Ave on the way to LiPari, behind the tech park. Bob will ask Jess.

Unfinished Business

- **Alcyon Lake Buffer –Alcyon Woods:** Draft of letter to preserve Alcyon Woods – Bob reviewed latest changes. Tom added to the 1st paragraph. Main motivation is encroaching development...in addition move sentence up about buffer. Discussion. Drafting a resolution. Maybe we need to spell out the ROSI. Template available if we want to do that. Eric Mollenhauer believes it will come down to votes. How will this directly affect people of Pitman? Need to be clear, may be some pushback. We would like to use woods for Potter festival and get a year of activities together. Bring this to the work session. Agree to send letter. Will it be read into the record? It will be read in the work session. Bob will incorporate ideas and get it finalized, send it out to everyone, talk to Mike Raze to get it read. April 23rd is a possible council meeting – we can request being on the work session agenda. Resolution could be written to outline the support of preserving Alcyon Woods under ROSI and deed restriction as an interim measure. Mike Raze requested Parks be involved and Dani says they have expressed their support. Motion to finalize letter and present at April 23rd made by Dani, second Tom, all in favor.
- **Lake Sampling:** Bob will get dates from Solitude
- **New Proposed Tree Protection Ordinance:** Committee still working on this.
- **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.
- **Gloucester Co. Nature Club:** Chris and Eric spoke about a new event this year - Firefly festival July 21st at Tall Pines after dark . They would like to publicize at Earth Day. State has given a permit for it. They can set up a display. Will reissue book Natural Places of Gloucester County – could include Alcyon Woods. They gave flyers for year that are almost done. Birdquest coming up May 5th with other activities. Eric spoke about his history with the Environmental Commission and how he became involved in the Nature Club.
- **Ellen working on the tree cookies**
- **Dare: people asking for what to do – may have people from Memorial School – maybe could use Jess' water table – She will reach out to Denise.**

Dani: signs – no one got back to her about the signs. Dare has a catalog.

Supplies will be purchased soon for terrariums.

Trees ordered for our giveaway – will be here a week ahead.

Dani will make a sign and Dare will take it to the Board Office to publicize.

We will work on getting canopies.

Lanyards with names would be a good idea for commissioners

Bob asking Solitude to come.

Dare can get some critters from the lake for the kids to look at.

Earth Day cake will be ordered.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: The next meeting of the Pitman Environmental Commission will be May 3rd 2018, at 7:30 p.m.

AJOURNMENT: There being no further business Josh made a motion to adjourn, second Dani & the meeting was adjourned at 9:35 pm

cc: Environmental Commissioners

Mayor Johnson and Council