

Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes: January 9, 2018 (draft)

GREEN THEME: Ingham County Groundwater Survey and Important Issues for Well Head Protection

Garry Rowe presented an update on groundwater issues in our region. An audio recording and powerpoint of his presentation is available and will be put on [Enviro Commission webpage](#).

REGULAR MEETING

Attending: Ned Jackson, Jim Kielbaso, Aparna Krishnamurthy, Kirk Lapham, Susan Masten, Bill McConnell, John Sarver, LeRoy Harvey (staff), and Peter Menser (staff)

Guests: David Premoe (Planning Commission), Tom Cary (interested in Env. Commission), Wetland Consultants: Stephen Voice & Gary Marx, Bryana Guevara, Jeff Keyes (KEBS), Chuck Holman(DTN), Reps/owner/builder/property owner from wetland projects, Sue Andrews and Valerie Lafferty (PFAS research project), Env. Commission Interest/Applicants: Tom Cary, Linda Burghardt, Erin Schroeder (see applications in “other documents” folder on the Environmental Commission page on the Meridian [Website here](#))

WETLAND PERMITS: Details including the applications, delineation report, wetland consultant reports, and staff reports can be found [on-line here](#).

Chimney Oaks (culvert/driveway) W-18-04 This project includes 1.5 to 1 ratio of mitigation (create 1.5x the amount of wetland that is being filled). This project will include up to 5 years of monitoring* and signage. There were questions about the shape of the culvert (elliptical, which facilitates movement of animals under roadway), the economic justification in the application, the impact/improvements to species diversity, and the bonding of mitigation. Motion passed to approve of Wetland Use Permit #18-04 to install a culvert within the Povey Drain subject to the conditions proposed by the Township’s wetland consultant in the report dated January 4, 2019. **larger projects typically are monitored for 5 years. Smaller may take 2-3 years. Once consultant determines that the wetland is well underway, monitoring inspections are discontinued.*

Newton Park WUP-18-03 This project is a mixed use planned unit development . Masten and McConnell visited the site yesterday. A public hearing will be held at the Township Board (who will make the final decision on the MU-PUD. Wetland A and B are both determined to be “essential” and are regulated. The property is currently zoned C2. The MUPUD, which must be approved by the Board, allows a mix of commercial and residential. There were questions about a wildlife corridor on the site (illustrated in the Greenspace Plan), conditions of approval – buffer size, plantings in the buffer, the application form (Army Corp of Engineers is required), the use of permeable pavement, the effect on impervious surface, public benefit, site/landscaping maintenance and others. Because the project is not fully designed, one condition is to have Meridian’s wetland consultant review the final plan.

MOTION Approved (prepared by Menser, offered Masten, seconded by Kielbaso) by to recommend approval of Wetland Use Permit #18-03 to discharge storm water into regulated wetlands subject to the conditions proposed by the Township’s wetland consultant in the report dated January 3, 2019.

Wetland Ordinance Revisions (tabled)

Goals for 2019(tabled)

Environmental Commission Applications (tabled)

RELATED UPDATES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Planning – David Premoe mentions that medical marijuana will be one of the larger issues.

Land Preservation – James Kielbaso states that two properties are being considered for purchase. 57 deer were harvested (smaller number than last year). There is interest in a joint meeting to discuss mitigation on land preservation (possibly with Ingham Co. Drain Commissioner, DEQ, Fish and Wildlife Service). Krishnamurthy asked about Chronic Wasting Disease.

Energy – John Sarver mentioned progress on the plan for 100% solar, the annual report on the Climate Action Plan. McConnell asked about presenting this at the Joint Commission meeting.

Brownfield Redevelopment Authority – Ned Jackson/Peter Menser mentioned two big projects: Downtown Okemos Mixed Use Project which is coming to the Board and Planning Commission in early February. There is clean up dry cleaning chemicals and gas station contamination. There is also a project on Jolly (Jolly Oak at the Elevation) where old petroleum and construction waste was stored.

Green Team – Krishnamurthy mentioned educational efforts related to reducing non-flushable materials in local schools, the upcoming recycling event in April, and interviews with janitors related to compost/litter.

Staff – Harvey referred to materials in the packet and also mentioned recruitment of commissioners. The Environmental Commission has 5 applicants for 1 regular position. There is also a student position open. See the “other documents” section on.

Liaison Appointments: The Commission decided to retain our current roster.

Joint Board Meeting (January 15 @ 6pm in Town Hall): McConnell encourages people to attend. RSVP not required. LeRoy will work with Bill to prepare a report for the EC/Green Team/Energy Team.

Officer Selection: McConnell was reappointed as Chair and Jackson as Vice Chair. Motion approved.

PUBLIC REMARKS: Erin Schroeder and Linda Burghardt introduced themselves. Both are potential Environmental Commissioners or associates. Jackson suggested that interested people are welcome to attend future meetings whether or not they are nominated.

Motion to Adjourn at 9:22pm by Masten. Seconded by Sarver. Motion Passed.