

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN
Environmental Commission
Wednesday-August 15, 2018 – 7:00 PM
MINUTES

The meeting was call to order at 7:05 pm in the Denton Room by Chairman Brownlee

ROLL CALL:

Present: Commissioner Brownlee, Commissioner Ross, Commissioner Debuck, Commissioner Gibson, Commissioner Emekpe, Board Representative White

Staff: Director Akers, McGuire

Absent Excused: Commissioner Merritt

Audience: 1

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion Commissioner Gibson, support Commissioner Debuck. Motion Carried

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

Motion Board Representative White, seconded Commissioner Emekpe with modification of Commissioner Gibson being excused from the June 20, 2018 meeting Motion Carried

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Waste Management Land Fire Update – Director Akers referred to Email sent July 31 to Director Best. Woodland Meadows had a fire on July 25th and was able to contain and extinguish the fire without assistance from the Van Buren Fire Department. Woodland Meadows is investigating the cause, but smoldering bar-b q coals are usually the culprit. Members can be placed an updating list from Kathleen Klein (kklein2@wm.com) this provides immediate updates of things going on.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Lake Drawdown Update – Director Best is working with our partners to formulate a plan that would be necessary to drawdown the lake along with permits required by state. Once all the information is received, the project would be presented to the Board of Trustees. Commissioner Brownlee asked for a timeline when would the project would be presented to the Board of Trustees. Director Akers indicated that it would be based on the response from the Dam Operators.
2. Coal Tar Brochure – 7,700 brochures processed and waiting for post office to provide mass mailing rates so they can be mailed out.
3. Pipe Runoff at Cadillac Asphalt. Commissioner Gibson explained there is a large discard drainage from Cadillac Asphalt and when there is a heavy rain it floods the dip on North Service Dr and drains into Willow Drain. Commissioner Gibson inquired about their on-site storm water system. Per original plans they can have stock piling with a 50-foot setback from the property line. Wayne County tests for e-coli bacteria and recently shut down the Van Buren Beach because of high levels of the e-coli bacteria. Director Akers stated that there appears to be other areas of testing which was completed by the Huron River Watershed Council, but that he was unable to see results since 2016.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Open Discussion:
 - a. The new liner system for the landfill was discussed and the Commission asked if there is any information. Public presentation concerning the new liner system in which samples were provided. Director Akers stated that there are reports on the DEQ website (https://www.michigan.gov/deq/0,4561,7-135-3312_4118_4240-471326--,00.html).
 - b. Flares in the landfills. There used to be flares at Wayne/EQ Disposal to dispose of the excess gas from the landfill. However; the flares lit in a while and would like to know if they have a new disposal system. Director Akers stated he could contact US Ecology to see if there has been any change to the disposal of the excess gases.

OPEN DISCUSSION:

CORRESPONDENCE:

- 1 Director Akers updated the Environmental Commission on recent “do not eat fish” advisories on the Huron River system in Washtenaw, Oakland, and Livingston Counties. The advisories are due to PFAS being found in fish in Kent Lake and at Barton Dam. There is current testing ongoing on Belleville Lake in the Township.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMENTS: None

ADJOURNMENT

Motion Commissioner Ross, seconded by Board Representative White to adjourn at 8:00 pm. Motion Carried

Respectfully submitted,

Laura McGuire, Recording Secretary