

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN
Environmental Commission
Wednesday-May 17, 2017
MINUTES - DRAFT

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm in the Denton Room by Chairperson Brownlee.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Brownlee, Jahr, Debuck, White

Absent Excused: Gibson, Merritt, Emekpe

Staff: Akers, Best, Halstead

Audience: 3

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion Jahr, Seconded by White to approve the May 17, 2017 agenda w/ the addition of item H. Algae Testing. Motion Carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion White, Seconded by Jahr to approve the March 15, 2017 Minutes. Motion Carried.

COMMUNICATIONS: Wayne County provided the Environmental Commission copies of the current updated resource recovery guide. They plan on updating it every 2 years, so the next edition will be in 2018.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. **Solar Farms** –The question was asked if the Twp. has an ordinance that talks about Solar Panels or renewable energy. The new zoning ordinance has a section discussing Solar Energy. The new ordinance goes into effect June 2nd.
- b. **Environmental Funding** – A question was asked about the Environmental funding that is mentioned in the Host Community Agreement. The Environmental funds are budgeted towards environmental programs that happen in the Twp. throughout the year. The Commission asked if it were possible to see annually where the environmental funds are being used. Deputy Director Best said he will ask.
- c. **Environmental Commission Recommendations** – The Environmental Commission discussed if their comments and recommendations are received by the board for the different environmental items/issues that are brought to them to give feedback on.

- d. **Spill Response** – The Question was asked if the Twp. has a first responder/ spill response team that goes out when accidents are reported on the lake. Deputy Director Best stated that the public safety department is looking into getting a larger spill kit for such cases.
- e. **Belleville Road Bridge** – Concern was brought up about the water that is possibly leaking from drains or pipes under the bridge. Efforts have been taken to find out ownership of the pipes under the bridge to hopefully get the seepage issue resolved.
- f. **UM Rowing Buoy System** – A commissioner asked if the U of M row team’s training course buoys are permanent or if they are temporary and if there is a way to make them more visible? Deputy Director Best stated it would be looked at after a recent accident on the lake involving the row team and a speed boat.
- g. **French Landing Dam Fishing** - A commissioner asked if there were anything the environmental commission could do to improve or develop the fishing area at the French Landing Dam. Deputy Director Best said because of the spillway on the west side of the dam, and for emergency purpose there can be no structures on that side.
- h. **Algae Testing** – There will be testing done on Belleville Lake for monitoring purpose only of the testing process itself. The testing is being done by various universities who have collaborated together; Oakland, Wayne State, Lake Superior State and Northern Kentucky. Brownlee stated he has offered them to use his dock as a testing site.

COMMENTS: Best gave an update of the Sealcoat Registration for applicators stating contractors have been coming into the Township and registering.

Motion Debuck, seconded by White to adjourn at 8:59 pm.

MOTION CARRIED

Respectfully submitted,

Anna Halstead, Recording Secretary