

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN**  
**Environmental Commission**  
**Wednesday-July 20, 2016**  
**MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm in the Denton Room by Chairperson Brownlee.

**ROLL CALL:**

Present: Brownlee, Debuck, Gibson, Jahr

Absent Excused: Akers, Merritt, Wilson

Staff: Best, Halstead

Audience: 2

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Motion Gibson, Seconded by Debuck to approve the agenda as revised.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Motion to approve the Minutes from May 18, 2016 Gibson, Seconded by Debuck.

Motion Carried

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

Chairman Brownlee asked if any new applications for the vacant position have come in. No new applications have been received at this time.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**1. Township Map:** Deputy Director Best asked the Commissioners what type of maps they were looking to have for their meetings. They mentioned they would like some temporary maps that could show zoning and actual locations (i.e. Road names, street names...) Deputy Director Best is going to work on getting the maps that they requested.

**2. Coal Tar Discussion:** Deputy Director Best stated all new projects that are coming in are being looked at to make sure they are complying with the >1% PAH Sealant Ban. Brownlee asked if it would be a good idea to see if there were a way to enforce the ordinance or put a penalty on non-compliance, as other cities/townships have done. It's much easier making sure large projects stay complaint with the ban, but has proven to be a little more difficult residentially. Deputy Director Best said he would look into what other municipalities, those that have a coal tar sealant ban, are doing in way of enforcement or penalization and bring any information he finds to the next scheduled meeting.

**3. Lakeshore Management Workgroup Update:** Deputy Director Best brought everyone up to date on how things are going with the workgroup for the Lakeshore Ordinance. They have come

up with a draft that they will eventually present to the Planning Commission and Township Attorney. They are still waiting on some information from DEQ on what their rules are. The draft resolves most of the main concerns the residents had, but original intent of the document is still intact.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- 1. Pollinators and Habitat:** Deputy Director Best went over the importance of pollinators and gave handouts to the committee members to look over with resources on where to get more information. He went over the different type of pollinators and what a lot of communities have been doing to create pollinator pockets and why they're so important. Brownlee suggested the commission members start becoming more familiar with pollinators and educating themselves, and then they will go over different ways to get information out to residents and ways to start doing pollinator projects around the Township. Best also mentioned there are grants available for these type of projects.
- 2. ARC and ADW Updates:** Best, who is a member of the Alliance of Rouge Communities and Vice Chair of the Alliance of Downriver Watersheds, gave an update of some of the projects they are in the middle of. ARC is working on doing green infrastructure as habitat and restoration projects. One of the larger projects is restoring Nankin Lake, which is one of the largest lakes in the Hines Park system. They are also wanting to do grow zone projects within communities, which could be beneficial to Van Buren Twp. ADW is doing invasive species removal projects across the watershed. They have about 30 students doing removal of invasive species in the ARC and ADW.
- 3. Stormwater:** Best was asked to look at how the detention ponds are being maintained and how Van Buren Twp. could be a partner in helping maintain the waterways. At the next meeting he will talk more about what approach to take.

**COMMENTS:** It was mentioned Board Representatives Jahr will be leaving the Environmental Commission in November and there will be a vacancy.

**Motion Debuck, seconded by Gibson to adjourn at 8:14 pm.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

Respectfully submitted,

Anna Halstead, Recording Secretary