

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN**  
**Environmental Commission**  
**Wednesday-February 20, 2019 – 7:00 PM**  
**MINUTES**

The meeting was call to order at 7:10 pm in the Denton Room by Chairman Brownlee

**ROLL CALL:**

Present: Chairman Brownlee, Commissioner Ross, Commissioner Debuck, Commissioner Gibson, Commissioner Merritt

Staff: Director Best, Recording Secretary McGuire

Absent Excused: Commission Emekpe, Board Representative White and Director Akers

Audience: 1

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Motion Commissioner Merritt, seconded Commissioner Ross as modified. Motion Carried

**ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:**

Motion Commissioner Merritt, seconded Commissioner Ross. Motion Carried

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

Chairman Brownlee informed the commission that he had planned on having Dan Brown from Huron River Watershed Counsel here. Mr. Brown is leading the charge on the PFAS issue. The intent of the presentation is to educate the commission on what they should know and the status of PFAS on the Huron River Watershed. Due to Mr. Brown's schedule a tentatively date of April 17<sup>th</sup> has been scheduled. Chairman Brownlee further stated that there has been some activity to establish acceptable levels of PFAS by the Federal Government. The report should be released later in the year.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**Lake Workshop:** On Thursday, February 21, 2019, doors will open at around 5:45. Between 6:00 and 7:00 will be an opportunity for residents to go to various stations in the Otisville Sheldon Room. These stations will allow residents to talk to lake contractors about specific project, MDEQ staff about their permit process, and three Township staff who will answer questions about the permitting process for the Township. There will also be a table set up for a staff member to schedule one on one meetings with staff members to discuss individual lakeshore projects. There will also be a table for residents to sign up to becoming a possible volunteer if the lake drawdown should happen. By signing up the resident will receive via email all correspondences. At 7 pm there will be a short presentation that will focus on the lake letter. Providing residents with the information that by living adjacent to the lake the Township owns the property between them and the lake. However, a lake resident has exclusive rights to the lake for recreational purposes according to the new lake zoning. There will be a discussion on the projects that don't require lake permits, minor projects that require a lake letter and specific Township permits, and those projects that may require additional permits from State and/or Federal agencies. Large-scale projects that will require permits from all three; a lake letter, State permits and Federal permits. Residents will also receive information on basic permit process and where they can find the recourses for further

information. For projects that require a lake letter information about filing process, how long it takes to process and the cost "there really isn't any cost." Residents must have the letter before they proceed with projects that are require a lake letter. Next there will be a discussion concerning state permits where the residents can get them, how to apply for one, and where to get help answering questions about the permit. There will be a discussion on where the resident would need to get a professional involved. Then let one of the staff members from the State to provide further information they want to add and a representative from the Environmental Commission to provide on what the commission does for the community. Then there will be a presentation concerning FERC permits. The process and where to find further information. There will be a question and answer period that will last about 30 minutes allowing residents to ask questions about Milfoil, PFAS, do not eat the fish ban, the coal tar ordinance and questions concerning the presentation. There will not be a presentation on the lake drawdown because we have no new information. If there is a question about the lake drawdown Director Best will provide the information the available. If Director Best receives a question that he is unable to answer during the meeting a staff member will write down the question, ad answer off line and one on one. For residents unable to attend the presentation, the lake letter package, MDEQ and Corp of Engineers permit process, the FERC website and a catalog of all FAQ's will be on our website.

The milfoil grant has unofficially denied. The Township has not received the denial letter.

Received the official signs for the fish ban. A sign will be at each boat launch, at the French Landing, Van Buren Park, Sandy's marina and another place to be designated.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

There was a fire on Sunday, February 17, 2019 at the land fill, "What was the cause." Director Best talked to Kathleen Kline who stated that there was a hot waste load brought into the facility which caused the fire. Per Ms. Kline the fire was contained and extinguished quickly. Director Best confirmed the fire was on the Van Buren side of the landfill.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMENTS:**

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion Commissioner Merritt, seconded by Commissioner Debuck, to adjourn at 8:50 pm. Motion Carried

Respectfully submitted,

Laura McGuire, Recording Secretary