

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN
Environmental Commission
Wednesday, August 20, 2019
MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Denton Room by Chairperson Brownlee.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Brownlee, Ross, Gibson, Merritt, Debuck and White

Absent: Emekpe.

Staff: Director Best, Executive Assistant Renaud and Secretary Pecsénye.

Additional Present: Kathleen Kline of Waste Management

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Chairman Brownlee recommended modification of Agenda to switch the order of item numbers 1 and 2 in the communications. Trustee White motioned, Second Commissioner Gibson to approve the agenda with the modification. Motion Carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion Commissioner Merritt, Second Commissioner Ross to approve the minutes of June 19th, 2019 as presented. Motion Carried

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Director Brownlee introduced Kathleen Kline for Waste Management to speak about the recycling industry current trends and future plans. Ms. Kline gave us an overview of the changes in recycling over her time in the field (30 years) and presented us with facts and tips towards sustainability.
 - Public education on recycling trending towards sustainability and circular economy systems. The challenge is getting companies on board when there are no policies.
 - Legislation is being introduced but is in the early stages
 - There has been more progress in the last 10-15 years towards recycling than the 10 years prior. Ironically during those years, we went from 8000 landfills to 3000 landfills in our country, due to more stringent laws.
 - Waste Management's main goal right now is to reduce greenhouse gases, by 4 times the standard.
 - The flux in the recycling market is due to lack of standardizing and contaminated recycling.
 - The acceptable contamination level has dropped radically in the past ten years causing much of the recycling shipped overseas to be rejected.
 - Just because you put something in the recycling bin does not mean it is recycled. It is not recycled until it makes it to the recycling plant.
 - All contaminated recycling ends up in the landfill.
 - Things the Township can do to get the word out on the newest campaign "war on recycling contamination" is promote, promote, promote!

- Up-date flyers to show what can be recycled and what contaminates the recycling.
 - Monitor the web site, to keep it updated maybe have the flyer pop up every time someone logs on to the web page.
 - Keep promoting and reminding to reduce recycling contaminants.
 - A good resource for more information is the Waste Management You Tube Page.
2. Director Best gave a recap of the meeting presented by EGLE at the BYC regarding the phosphorus TMDL “Total Maximum Daily Load” in Ford and Belleville Lakes. There is proposal to lower the current TMDL for phosphorous. The hope is that reducing the phosphorus levels will lower the algae blooms in the lake

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Commissioner Gibson presented a list of current roads in Wayne County that are available to Adopt as a volunteer project by the Environmental Commission. The list given did not have much availability in Van Buren Township. Director Best pointed out that the Environmental Commission still has a road in this program because once you enroll it is “yours” until you say you don’t want it any longer.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMENTS:

There was a brief discussion regarding the coal tar sealant ordinance for parking lots that stemmed from a question by Commissioner Gibson.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion to Adjourn commissioner Debuck, Second Trustee White, Meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen E. Pecsénye
Recording Secretary