

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN
Environmental Commission
Wednesday, February 19, 2020
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, Creal, Merritt

Absent/Excused: Debuck, White, Executive Assistance Renaud,

Staff: Director Best and Secretary Pecsénye.

Additional Present:

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion Commissioner Merritt, Second Commissioner Creal to approve minutes as presented.
Motion Carried

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion Commissioner Ross, Second Commissioner Creal to approve the minutes of December 18, 2019 as presented. Motion Carried

COMMUNICATIONS:

Director Best handed out copies of commission member contact list to all present.

Chairman Brownlee Suggested having Kathleen Kline come in to do a presentation focusing on education for recycling contamination, specifically what is clean recycling, what are the minimums? He will contact Ms. Kline to set this up since all members were interested.

Commissioners discussed battery recycling.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Master Plan Draft Discussion - Director Best gave an overview of the Master Plan that is 70% done. He went over the goals and objectives of the Master Plan. He explained that the current Master Plan was completed in 1989 and made up of that and several addendums over past 30 years including 1999, 2000, 2001, 2004, 2007,2009 and lastly in 2010 with the Belleville Road District Plan. Everything is being combined into one Master Plan going forward. He explained the different zones of use in the township where they lay in the current areas and how they are spread out to create a balance. The Master Plan gives a history of the township, the major businesses and developments within, the changes that have taken place, and the direction the Township is taking going forward. Target date for completion of Master Plan is at least another month.

2. Iron Belle Trail Update – The Township secured a CDBG grant of \$500,000 to pave “the saddle” (the dip between the 2 halves of the park). A design firm has been hired and plans are in the works. This will open Van Buren Park for the Iron Belle Trail and double the number of acres available for park space. Because it will be safe for passage the Ralph Wilson Foundation is committing funds to connect the Denton Road Bridge. We are currently working with Ralph Wilson for paving from Grove road pass Kmart into Van Buren Park. Only the Saddle is getting done this year, so far, but at last night’s board meeting (2/18/2020) construction admin drawing were approved for 2 other sections of the trail.
3. Parks Project Improvements - last meeting it was mentioned that this year the committee was going to focus on potential Parks projects so Director Best opened discussion for ideas. Commissioner Merritt suggested sewer drain stickers which was something done in the past. Director Best stated he would look into it as a possibility.
4. MS4 Permit Update – this is a municipal Storm water permit required by the federal Government. The Township applied for a renewal in 2017 which was just reviewed about a month ago. As a Township we are unique as we are only responsible for our own property and the County is responsible for remainder. We should have approval in the next 6 months it is an 8-year permit.
5. Open discussion other new items-
 - a. Chairman Brownlee inquired about the warning signs regarding the PFAS. Director Best explained the process of monthly and quarterly testing for PFAS and the regulations to remove warning signs. He stated we just got new warning signs for this year.
 - b. Chairman Brownlee announced that even though the schedule shows a meeting a month if there are not enough agenda items, they will pass the meetings until next month. He also encouraged the commissioners to bring items they may feel necessary.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMENTS:

ADJOURNMENT: Motion to Adjourn Gibson, Second Creal, Meeting adjourned at 8:11p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen E. Pecsénye
Recording Secretary