

Charter Township of Orion

Oakland County, Michigan

Environmental Resources Committee Meeting Minutes

Regular Meeting, Thursday, Dec 5, 2019

Orion Center

7:00 PM

1. Call to order by the Chair –George Hanley 7:15pm
2. Roll call- Present - Michele Arquette-Palermo, Mike Flood, George Hanley, Mike Deluca, Paige Porter, Corinna Womack, Pamela Beilke (phone from 7:15pm-7:30pm)
Absent with Notice – Jessie Richmond, Harold Flood, Rodney Tocco, Matt Menghini
3. Determination of a quorum - yes
4. Public comments – none
5. Regular order of business
 - a. Approval of minutes from October 2019 meeting – Mike DeLuca made motion to accept amended minutes, Michele Arquette-Palermo seconded. Motion Carried.
 - b. Approval of agenda for December 2019 regular meeting – Mike DeLuca made motion to accept amended agenda, Michele Arquette-Palermo seconded. Motion Carried.
 - c. Pending business
 - i. Green Up Awards Suggestions - Michele Arquette-Palermo will continue to follow up with Clinton Valley Trout Unlimited Chapter for a possible candidate for the Green Up Award reflecting their focus on Paint Creek cleanup. George Hanley followed up with Kay Automotive and left a message. They have been recognized by the State of Michigan and he was looking for details on what the award was for so they could be a possible candidate for the Green Up Award. George Hanley proposed that Clinton Valley Trout Unlimited could be the next candidate. Michele Arquette-Palermo made a motion to nominate the Clinton Valley Chapter Trout Unlimited for the Green Up Award and Paige Porter seconded the motion. All voted in favor and motion passed. Michele Arquette-Palermo will look into gathering the necessary information in order to submit them for the 1st Quarter 2020 Green Up Award. Previous 2019 awards were presented to the Oakland County Sheriff Office Orion Sub-Station, Village of Lake Orion Police Department and Woodside Bible Church.
 - ii. 2020 School Design Contest for Reusable Bags – Mike Deluca has sent information regarding the contest and plans to move forward in January 2020. The goal would be to present the winning design on Earth Day 2020. Paige Porter and Corinna Womack said that they would also share the Design Contest flyer with the local schools. Michele Arquette-Palermo will coordinate with the Parks and Recreation department for a date to present. George Hanley has arranged with Joyce at the Orion Township Library to display the entries in the same display case as in 2019.

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- d. New business
 - i. Membership – Pamela Beilke applied to the Township for OTERC Board membership and said she received confirmation from the Township that she is being recommended to the township Board of Trustees to be appointed starting Jan 2020. Unfortunately, the OTERC will lose Rodney Tocco and Matthew Menghini as members on January 1, 2020. Both Matt and Rodney chose not to renew their respective re-appointments due to personal commitments. Thank you to Matt and Rodney for their valuable volunteer service to the Orion community while serving on the committee! You both will be truly missed! George Hanley plans to reach out to Seth Miatech who has attended previous meetings to see about interest on joining the committee.
 - ii. Feed-a-Bee Project – Pamela Beilke (via phone) provided an update on the Feed-a-Bee Project which had been sponsored by Bayer, but has been discontinued. She has initiated conversations to look at opportunities for funding and beekeepers. She said that this Project would bring beekeepers to the garden for educational purposes regarding their importance to environment. George Hanley stated that he talked to Kathy Klein from Waste Management and they would be willing to assist with this effort and possibly reinstate their dormant site. George Hanley has also talked to Orion Township Park’s Director Aaron Whatley and said he supports creating a site similar to the 2-acre site proposed in 2017, Pamela Beilke has experience with this at her home. George Hanley says he would approach Bayer and see if they would help with seeding if we provide the site only with native plants. Waste Management and Orion Township have possible funding and site locations to use along with Pamela Beilke and Michele Arquette-Palermo personal experience with development and cultivation of their own butterfly/bee gardens. George Hanley mentioned he would see if Rodney Tocco would be able to provide consultation in 2020. Michele Arquette-Palermo also has personal experience with this and has also supported the WM efforts and is a certified beekeeper. The site would likely need to allow for recurring “burns” on occasion, so Michele Arquette-Palermo suggested to double check with the Township that they are ok with this course of action as well as in compliance with local ordinances.
 - iii. Discuss 2020 meeting dates/time/location – Revised meeting dates for 2020 would be February 6, March 5, May 7, June 4, August 6, October 1 and December 3 at 7pm. Mike Flood will look into securing the Orion Center as the meeting location.
- e. Reports:
 - i. Phragmites Final 2019 Report –George Hanley provided a detailed update of various treatment sites in Lake Orion. Phragmite treatment was reinstated by Orion schools, including the bus depot, Blanche Sims, and areas near Scripps Middle School and the high school. Pee Wee Patch and the Orion (storage area) also reinstated treatment this year. ITC Powerlines revised areas included for 2020. Several subdivisions such as Round Tree Sub conducted treatment. Pomeroy Living received approval for treatment but missed the weather-related cutoff and will move forward next season. Indian Lake Village will also look into future treatment as will the Bald Mountain State Park. Total phragmite sites treated are shown on the attached list.

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- ii. NoHaz 2019 Summary – 2020 Program planning – Mike Flood provided an update for the 2019 NoHaz Program. Overall, program costs were about \$42,395 for 2019. The 2019 average price per car paid by the communities (including per car fee and administration fee) was about \$47. Next year's (2020) vendor per car fee costs are projected to increase from \$36.15 to \$55. Not including the County administration fee, which will be an additional fee. Overall, 7 million pounds of material have been collected since the County NoHaz program started in 2003. For additional detailed information, see the upcoming December 16, 2019 Township Board Agenda Packet listed under Reports. During the 2020 budget discussions the Board of Trustees has approved to continue to keep this Program free (no co-pay) to all Orion Township residents, which includes all Village of Lake Orion residents, whom are also township residents. There will be an Orion collection scheduled in July 2020 at Kensington Church. Located on Lapeer Rd. South of Silverbell Road. 2020 Information will be posted on the County website at [No Haz.com](http://NoHaz.com)
6. Committee comments –
 - a. Paige Porter has an interest in bringing environmental awareness into social media. Paige Porter will look into updating the information on the OTERC site (on the Orion Township website). Michele Arquette-Palermo will work with Paige Porter to provide content for the site consistent with the Township approval process.
 - b. Mike Deluca proposed nominating Mark Spencer (owns Spencer Apiary) for the Green Up Award for his efforts to take infested bees and repurpose for local bee programs. Michelle Arquette-Palmero indicated she would talk to him about joining the Committee and helping develop a forage site proposal.
 - c. Mike Flood – provided a copy of the OTERC bylaws to Paige Porter and Michele. Arquette-Palermo. The Township is very involved with the 2020 census. Looking for census workers. Please contact the Clerk's office for further details.
 7. Adjournment - 8:40pm