

# Charter Township of Orion

## Oakland County, Michigan

### Environmental Resources Committee Meeting Minutes

Regular Meeting, Thursday, Feb 6, 2020

Orion Center

7:00 PM

1. Feed-a-Bee Project –Call with Kathleen Klein, prior to official start to accommodate her schedule.

Pam spoke about her research into Feed-a-Bee, though she says this is no longer a good name for it because there is no longer a Bayer grant. Aaron Whately and Pam have discussed putting in a pollinator garden at Friendship Park. She's found another program that will provide seeds, Bee and Butterfly Habitat, a nonprofit, which requires a minimum of 2 acres, which Aaron has agreed the township can provide. Pam will work on an application to that program. Bayer promised her, and delivered, 350 seed packets, each covering 10 square feet. American Meadows is another organization she's looked into, from which 2 acres worth of appropriate seeds would cost \$800 in seeds. Aaron would use eco-friendly herbicides first, then use an "eco-roller" aka grass-seed drill to plant the seeds. The drill could be rented for about \$350.

Kathy asked if she saw a little area by the historic barn in Friendship Park (in the southeast part of the property) where she thought a wildflower garden had already been planted, but Pam didn't talk to Aaron about that; she says he was talking about using the northwest portion of the property. Pam will follow up with Aaron about that.

Kathy mentioned having put in wood duck houses and bat houses by the Orion Center along the Pollyann Trail, and said she might have some budget from her wildlife habitat program to put towards the garden at Friendship Park. Oakland Audubon is doing a pollinator survey this summer, and Kathy would devote some money from this budget to that, but she will check on the potential to commit some of the rest. WM also financed the signage at the bioswale by the Orion Center entrance. Pam would like to include signage in the pollinator park too.

Michele suggested getting in touch with Southeastern Michigan Beekeepers Club. Jessie suggested "Bees in the D". Pam raised a question about liability concerns for the park, if there are bees. Kathy said people have been known to steal beehives, Michele said people vandalize them fearing they're a threat to public health. At Eagle Valley, Michele said, they used pallets to help hide the hives. Kathy offers to donate a hive which is currently not being maintained. Kathy says she can commit \$400 - \$500 from her budget.

There's a spot at the corner of Silverbell and Giddings that Kathy got classified as a national wildlife spot last year, which she cites as evidence that once a patch of wildflowers is established, the plants will spread on their own. George said Aaron will commit staff to doing the planting and maintenance work, saving on labor costs.

Mike Flood suggested doing a presentation to the board in April, but said Pam shouldn't need permission from BoT to pursue the application.

2. Call to order by the Chair –George Hanley 7:12pm
3. Roll call- Present - Mike Flood, George Hanley, Mike Deluca, Michele Arquette-Palermo, Jessie Richmond, Debbie Leveski, Pamela Beilke  
Absent with Notice – Corinna Womack, Harold Flood  
Absent without Notice – Paige Porter

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4. Determination of a quorum - yes
5. Public comments – none
6. Regular order of business
  - a. Annual election of the 2020 OTERC officers. Introduction of new committee member Debbie Leveski. Mike Flood nominated George Hanley for committee chair. Michele Arquette-Palermo seconded; committee votes unanimously in favor. Michele nominates Corinna Womack (absent) for secretary; Debbie Leveski seconded; motion carried. Mike Flood nominated Michele Arquette-Palermo for vice-chair; Jessie Richmond seconded; motion carried.
  - b. Approval of minutes from December 2019 meeting – Mike Flood pointed out that the dates need to be updated; Mike DeLuca confirms having already done so and will deliver the new version to Julianne Savard. Mike DeLuca made motion to accept amended minutes, Michele Arquette-Palermo seconded. Motion carried.
  - c. Approval of agenda for February 2020 regular meeting – Mike Flood asked to amend the agenda to include a report on NoHaz. Mike DeLuca made motion to accept amended agenda, Michele Arquette-Palermo seconded. Motion carried.
  - d. Pending business
    - i. Feed-a-Bee Project - See above.
    - 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.
  - e. New business
    - i. Lake Orion Chat Room Social Media discussion regarding GFL recycling - Image appears to show recycling being dumped in a landfill. Michele wants OTERC to have an official response to this. Chris Barnett received and shared with the Facebook group a statement from GFL pointing out the post's lack of authenticity. There was discussion of GFL's recycling rules, what is and is not acceptable, and also of general strategy to circumvent "fake news". Mike Flood will contact Chris Barnett to get OTERC members invited to an already-scheduled tour of the GFL recycling facility. Further discussion of social media strategy postponed to April meeting due to Paige Porter's absence.
    - ii. GreenUp Award - According to Michelle, Jason from Clinton Valley Trout Unlimited (he manages the Orvis store) says it wasn't just their chapter who did the Paint Creek cleanup and maintenance, it was multiple other chapters, including the Clinton River Coldwater chapter. Michele will take care of the details and coordinate with Mike DeLuca, who will make the award document and submit it to Julianne Savard to print at the township, and Chris will frame it.
    - iii. 2020 School Design Contest for Reusable Bags - According to Aaron Whately, April 25th is the intended date for the GreenUp. There's no April meeting, so we'll have to vote online via email as we did last year. Mike

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DeLuca will follow up with Corinna about getting her son's school to participate and with school representatives seeking confirmation of participation. Jess Richmond suggest pursuing St. Joe's Catholic School. Mike Flood suggests the Baptist Church on Scripps Road, which also has a school through 8th grade. Michele offers to go on the Oakland Schools directory and get school emails. George will double-check with Kathy Klein about her budget for making and printing the bags.

- f. Reports:
  - i. NoHaz report from Mike Flood: Rochester Hills has backed out of NoHaz and joined SOCCRA. This includes Oakland University. But the city of Rochester is participating in both NoHaz and SOCCRA. NoHaz dates for 2020 will go from five to four. And there will be a NoHaz event in Orion, at Kensington Church, in July.
- 7. Committee comments –
  - a. George Hanley noticed that the environmental resources list document available in physical copy at different locations around town is outdated and appears in some locations in different versions. George and Mike Flood will work on an updated version.
- 8. Adjournment - Michele Arquette-Palermo moves to adjourn, Pamela Bielke seconds. Motion carried, 8:30pm.