

# Charter Township of Orion

## Oakland County, Michigan

### Environmental Resources Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, Dec 1, 2022 at 7pm

Orion Center – Art Room

1. Call to order by the Chair – 7:02pm
2. Roll call

	Present	Absent
<b>Voting Members</b>		
George Hanley	X	
Mike Flood (Board Rep)	X	
Tom Fisher		X
Corinna Womack	X	
Denise Burns		X
Samantha Bell		X
Pat Belanger	X	
<b>Non-Voting Members</b>		
Michael DeLuca		X
Avery Casey	X	
Linda Crane	X	
<b>Alternates</b>		
Harold Flood		X

Public Guest – Monica Doneth  
 Heather Muzzy (pollinator subcommittee member)

3. Determination of a quorum - yes
4. Public comments – Monica is joining based on her concern to get recycling bins in downtown Lake Orion as well as a high school/educational program regarding educating students on plastics and recycling.
5. Regular order of business
  - a. Approval of minutes from August 2022 meeting – George makes motion to approve, Corinna seconds motion, all in favor, motion passed.
  - b. Approval of agenda for December 2022 regular meeting – Mike Flood moves to approve agenda as amended. Pat seconds, motion carried.
  - c. Pending business
    - i. Quarterly Green Up Award – George and Corinna explain the background info on the Green Up award to both Avery and Monica. Tom Fisher was working on the writeup for the wind turbine. Corinna will reach out to Tom to see the status of this award writeup.
    - ii. Environmental Resources Document Distribution (Mike Flood) – Mike mentioned that Denise had provided the updates on the document and hardcopies are

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available at the Township offices and George provided hardcopies at the Orion Center and library.

- iii. OTERC Article (Tom Fisher) – Tom Fisher was not present. Corinna will follow up with Tom via email to get the status.
  - iv. OTERC Website Updates – Tom Fisher and Denise Burns were leading this effort and both were not present. Corinna will reach out to them to get status.
  - v. Pollinator (includes Monarch Butterflies) projects update – Pat Belanger stated that he submitted a grant request (Seed-a-legacy project) with a focus on pollinators. Must have a minimum of 2 acres, ex 1 acre for bees 1 acre for butterflies. Aaron Whately (Parks and Rec) mentioned the area outside township hall was available. Pat worked with Aaron on the grant request. Pat and Heather are both on the subcommittee for Pollinators. There is a request for a meeting planned for next week to discuss the requirements of the effort and the buy in for the Township to sustain the project. Aaron is committed for the long term tasks for the project in conjunction with Heather and Pat. Heather mentioned that the location has multiple benefits as well as potential for county wide recognition in the future (2 years + out). Pat mentioned it's a 3 year project. Year 1 is clearing the land and they will provide the seeds and it's typically in the 3<sup>rd</sup> year where the pollinator plants will thrive and flower. In year 3, it's anticipated that this area will be a "park"/area for the public to visit as well as scenic area. The pollinators will need to be continued to be fed (butterfly, bees, hummingbirds, etc) as well as shelter provided. Pat measured the area and indicated that there is roughly 4 acres of space for use. Plans include there will be a berm along Joslyn Rd to protect from the wind and erosion. Mike Flood mentioned that the Township is planning on hiring a horticulturist that may be used as a resource for this project, expected vacancy to be filled in early 2023.
  - vi. Composting Informational Guide (Sam Bell) – Sam Bell was not present to provide an update. Corinna will reach out for status. Heather has an interest in composting and Corinna will have Sam and Heather work together on this. Heather mentioned there is a misunderstanding by the public on the difference between Compost and Yard Waste and has an interest in educating the public on the difference. Avery has an interest in sharing this with the high school and educating the students. This will be a continued agenda topic.
- d. 2023 Meeting dates determined - Mike Flood provided the following dates for proposed 2023: Feb 2, March 2, May 4, June 1, August 3, September 7, October 5, and Dec 7. Mike has already reserved the Orion Center for these dates. Pat makes motion to approve, Linda seconds, all in favor, motion carried. Mike will work with Orion staff to get this scheduled.
- e. New Business:
- i. Spotted Lantern Fly – George mentions that this is an invasive species.
  - ii. Recycle Education Opportunities for Students (Avery Case) – Avery mentioned that they are trying to implement more recycling opportunities at the high school and that they have received a grant to add recycling bins and the students need to be educated. The grant funds were approved and hopefully by Spring 2023, the bins will be purchased. Science NHS and Go Green Club are leading this effort and educational materials will be provided to the student population on recycling. Monica asked about education to the elementary schools too.

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Heather suggested that encouraging recycling would reduce the amount of landfill costs.

- iii. NEW: OTERC membership resignation – Mike Flood provided Harold Flood’s resignation due to his move out of the state. The Alternate Vacancy will be posted on the Orion website.
- f. Reports
  - i. Phragmite status – Mike mentioned that George and Mike need to set up a meeting with the new township POC (Bill) to work on phragmite treatments in accordance with the phragmite ordinance.
  - ii. No Haz Collection Data – Mike Flood referred to the No Haz handout and indicated that the costs for No Haz is increasing (roughly \$100/car). Orion township had over 1300 residents participate in 2022. 2022 costs were \$88k to the township and in 2023, costs are estimated to increase to \$140k. The township board voted that it will be \$15 fee per car for 2023 to help offset these increased costs. The township is looking at Kensington for a 2023 No Haz host. Also, there is interest in looking at NOCCRA for the future. Mike mentioned that if people used the Environmental Resources List that it would encourage recycling and reduce the No Haz. Mike mentioned maybe include the Environmental Resource List in with the Orion tax bill mailings.
  - iii. Recycle Bank Status – Recycle Bank is listed in the Orion Living magazine on page 13.
  - iv. NEW: NOTA update
6. Committee comments - Linda wanted to ask about the Septic system inquiry that she had mentioned back in September. Linda mentioned that her street (Arborak Street) is all septic. Mike recommended that Linda contact the Water and Sewer department for the process and follow up.
7. Adjournment - Pat makes motion to adjourn at 8:30pm. Linda seconds motion, motion carried.

*OTERC 2023 meeting schedule: Feb 2, March 2, May 4, June 1, August 3, September 7, October 5, and Dec 7*