

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN
Environmental Commission
Wednesday, January 18, 2023
MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at **5:57 p.m.** in the Denton Room by **Chairman DeBuck.**

ROLL CALL:

Present: Chairman DeBuck, Commissioner Ross, Commissioner Gibson, Commissioner Merritt, Commissioner Creal, Commissioner Yob

Absent/Excused: Trustee Boynton

Staff: Director Akers, Director Lockett, Secretary Zantop

Audience: Two (2)

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion Commissioner **Creal**, Second Commissioner **Ross**, to approve the agenda of January 18, 2023, as presented.

(4) AYES – DeBuck, Ross, Gibson, Merritt, Creal, Yob

(0) NAYS

Motion Carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion Commissioner **Ross**, Second Commissioner **Gibson**, to approve the minutes of December 21, 2022, as presented.

(4) AYES – DeBuck, Ross, Gibson, Merritt, Creal, Yob

(0) NAYS

Motion Carried.

COMMUNICATIONS:

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Presentation on Microplastics by Al Hodge

Al Hodge, a 48-year veteran of the Plastic Industry, gave a presentation to the Commission. Mr. Hodge discussed various topics, including the plastic industry, types of plastics, plastic waste, recycling, contamination, and more. The Commission discussed ways to educate the public on the bad side of plastics, recycling, and reducing plastic use.

- Bring your own reusable/recyclable container for leftovers
- Bees wax wrap in place of plastic bags or wrap
- Reusable water bottles in place of single-use water bottles
- Put out information for the public/education program
- Having recycling bins at community events. Mr. Hodge recommended using Schupan out of Wixom.
- Reusable bags -bring your own bag to the grocery

2. Various Environmental Update

Denton Road Bridge update. Director Akers followed up on a question asked at the previous meeting as to whether the Denton Rd Bridge is safe to pass under by boat. The County verified that it is safe to drive under the bridge by boat.

Lilypad and Milfoil update. Eric Elgin with MSU Extension got Director Akers in contact with a group at the State of Michigan that specializes in aquatic weeds. It was recommended to start with figuring out what species of plant it is and if it is native or invasive. Washtenaw County Public Works runs a large aquatic weed management program for lakes in the Huron River District. Director Akers will be meeting with the Public Works Director to get more information.

Wayne County Drains update. There are several petition projects in the Township that are waiting on financing. Under the Michigan Drain Code, they are only allowed \$5,000 per mile for drain maintenance. They can remove small obstructions but heavier maintenance can easily exceed that amount. There are other procedures where they can spend more but would require a resolution from the Township or a petition from a majority of owners in the drainage district.

Lake Signage "Don't eat the fish" and "PFAS" update. The Huron River Watershed Council will give us information on who we can purchase signage through and figure out the cost then go from there.

Willow Run Stormwater System update. Director Akers has an upcoming meeting with the Airport Authority and will get more information on Airport infrastructure.

Chairman DeBuck asked if there were any other updates on the Denton Rd Bridge. The Township is working with Wayne County to move the project along it is in the design stages. Chairman DeBuck asked if they found any of the endangered mussels. This has to be done at a certain time of year and if they are found it takes time for the relocation process. It has to be accessed and reviewed by the State of Michigan.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMENTS:

None.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion to Adjourn **Merritt**, Second **Creal**, Meeting adjourned at **7:23 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Kendyl Zantop
Recording Secretary