

CHESTERFIELD TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

February 23, 2010

Chairman Benton called the meeting of the Chesterfield Township Environmental Commission to order at 7:35PM. The Open Public Meetings Act Statement was read and compliance noted.

Roll Call was taken showing present Elise Bremer-Nei, Michel Hlubik, F. Gerry Spence and Chairman Benton. Absent: Karl Braun, Charles Jones and Jane Ryan.

MINUTES

January 26, 2010 Environmental Commission Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Hlubik, seconded by Mr. Spence, to approve the January 26, 2010 minutes. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

DISCUSSION

Arbor Day Celebration – April 30, 2010

In providing for the Arbor Day Celebration the Environmental Commission discussed the need to purchase the seedlings that are given to the students at the Chesterfield Elementary School on Arbor Day. The Division of Parks and Forestry's state program offers free bare-root seedlings to all third graders, when requested by the school. Approximately 400 additional seedlings would be needed for the remaining students and will be purchased by the township from Forestry Service at a cost of \$25 for each 98 tube seedlings. Ms. Wills will contact Mr. Mazzoni at the Elementary School and have them purchase any remaining seedlings that would be needed if a limit prohibits the township's full purchase. The township will also purchase trees to be planted at the school.

Business Stimulus Fund Award

The Environmental Commission was awarded a Business Stimulus Fund (BSF) grant in the amount of \$7,000 in December. There are follow-up measures to the process and a resolution from the Township Committee and other paperwork will be sent in March. The grant money will go to the removal of diseased and hazardous trees in the township.

Sustainable Jersey

Sustainable Jersey is a certification program for municipalities in New Jersey that want to go green, save money, and take steps to sustain their quality of life over the long term. It identifies concrete actions that municipalities can implement to become "certified" and be considered leaders on the path to a sustainable community. The program provides clear "how to" guidance and tools to enable communities to make progress on each action

and also provides access to grants and identifies existing and new funding opportunities for municipalities to make progress toward the actions. Sustainable Jersey encompasses issues such as global warming, pollution, biodiversity, land use, air and water quality, equity, buying local, local living economies, and sustainable agriculture. Certification actions are developed through an ongoing process of discussion and research that includes the participation of over 150 New Jersey leaders, experts and organizations including state agencies, universities, non-profit organizations, and business leaders. To become Sustainable Jersey Certified, municipalities must complete and document actions from a list. The Bronze Level of certification requires the establishment of a mandatory Green Team and the implementation of two out of six Priority actions and a total of 150 points. A resolution was provided that must be approved by the Township Committee in order to provide for the Green Team.

The Environmental Commission discussed the checklist items that have already been provided by the township such as an energy audit that was recently performed. There are currently meetings being held by the school on the subject of obtaining safe routes to school, as the new elementary school within Old York Village is due to open in September. Mayor Kelly is involved with the school on this issue. The Environmental Commission had a Natural Resources Inventory prepared. All of these actions provide the Environmental Commission with enough points to hopefully obtain Bronze Status in 2010. A resolution will be provided by the Township Committee supporting participation in the program and the Environmental Commission will require approval from the Mayor to be the participants in the Green Team. Ms. Wills was directed to pass the resolution requirement on to the Township Clerk.

BSF Grant

John Benton previously prepared a list of contractors for the grant. The Environmental Commission will decide on the contractor to employ by who will take down the most trees.

Turnpike Tree Removal Status

Ms. Wills was directed to get any new information on the status of the project from the Township Clerk.

CORRESPONDENCE

Rain Garden Certification Program

The New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station and Rutgers Cooperative Extension have scheduled a Rain Garden Certification Program. Trainees will learn from the experts of Rutgers Cooperative Extension about the technical side of rain garden design, as well as being engaged in a hands-on rain garden installation. All are welcome and previous gardening experience is not required. No Environmental Commission members will be attending at this time.

New Jersey Shade Tree CORE Training

The Division of Parks and Forestry is planning a CORE Training on Saturday, April 10th.in Paramus, NJ. However, the members plan to attend the session that is held in Cherry Hill in October.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:35PM, there being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Spence, seconded by Mr. Hlubik, to adjourn. So moved.

Correspondence

Respectfully submitted,

Linda S. Wills