

## CHESTERFIELD TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

April 27, 2010

Chairman Benton called the meeting of the Chesterfield Township Environmental Commission to order at 7:30PM. The Open Public Meetings Act Statement was read and compliance noted.

Roll Call was taken showing present Elise Bremer-Nei (7:35), Karl Braun, Michael Hlubik, Charles Jones (7:35), Jane Ryan (7:35), F. Gerry Spence and Chairman Benton. Aggie Napoleon also attended the meeting. Ms. Napoleon was appointed to the position of Environmental Commission Secretary commencing upon Ms. Wills' leaving on April 30.

### **MINUTES**

#### February 23, 2010 Environmental Commission Meeting

A motion was made by Mr. Spence, seconded by Mr. Hlubik, to approve the February 23, 2010 Environmental Commission Minutes. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

At 7:35 Ms. Bremer-Nei, Ms. Ryan and Mr. Jones were present.

### **PUBLIC**

Residents Sherry Duvas, Carol Stein and Michael Stein attended the Environmental Commission Meeting. Ms. Duvas asked if Chesterfield Township had an Agricultural Advisory Board. She was advised that the township does have said board. Mr. and Mrs. Stein came to the meeting because of their interest in environmental issues. Their daughter is a Sustainability Manager.

### **DISCUSSION**

#### Arbor Day Celebration – April 30, 2010

Mr. Benton advised that the Arbor Day Celebration will be at the Chesterfield Elementary School at 9AM. There will be a program in the gymnasium where pictures will be taken of several students holding the "Tree City USA" flag. Four hybrid dogwood trees, purchased from Fernbrook Nursery, will be planted along the Chesterfield-Crosswicks entrance at the school with the help of the students. Each of the children will receive a seedling from the Forestry Service that they can plant in their yard. The plastic containers that hold the seedlings will be recycled back to the Forestry Service.

### Business Stimulus Fund Award

The BSF grant is a \$7,000 payment of federal funds through the NJDEP. Upon passage of the budget, a bid for a Certified Tree Expert will result in the hiring of one entity for the purpose of removing approximately 12 hazardous trees. In the interim, the Environmental Commission will be marking and mapping the hazardous trees that are in the worst condition. It was noted that Bacterial Leaf Scorch has taken two oak trees on Matthews Lane.

Mrs. Stine asked if there were plans to replant any of those trees that will be removed. She was advised that the Environmental Commission previously has had grant money to put in trees; however, no money is available at this time.

### Sustainability Project

Chairman Benton advised the public that the Sustainable Jersey project 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. Municipal certification is needed by way of a resolution approving enrollment as well as the appointment of the Environmental Commission as the "Green Team". Mr. Jones noted that the 4H members would benefit from the program by helping with some of the projects. The township is required to obtain 150 points to achieve the Bronze Level of certification.

One of the checklist items already provided by the township an energy audit. 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. The Environmental Commission had a Natural Resources Inventory prepared. Ms. Bremer-Nei advised that a member of the Bordentown Environmental Commission is planning a Green Fair this summer and she has agreed to work on at the fair. All of these actions will help to 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 be named the Green Team. More information on the project can be found at [www.SustainableJersey.com](http://www.SustainableJersey.com).

### Turnpike No Net Loss Program

Chairman Benton explained that the No Net Loss Program requires the replacement of the trees that were removed for the widening of the turnpike. It was noted that Bordentown's trees were funded directly through the Turnpike Authority and not through the NJ Department of Environmental Protection. It is possible that the NJDEP money will not be available to replace the trees in Chesterfield. The Township Engineer, Nancy Jamanow is pursuing the outcome of the project

### Trees in Old York Village

The Environmental Commission discussed the inspection of the trees. They were sent inspection reports from the Planner's office via emails and Mr. Benton had contacted Clarke Caton Hintz's office in order to arrange a meeting with their landscaping inspector to go over the concerns about the trees that he and the other Commissioners have found at the site. Chairman Benton had previously been advised that the concerns should be addressed at the Environmental Commission Meeting so that the Environmental Commission Secretary could forward the concerns and suggestions to the planner's office. This was due to concern over excessive billing on tree issues by the planner. Mr. Benton spoke on the need to get the trees in the ground before the window for a healthy planting is gone. He spoke on the issues of the workers planting the wrong species, undersized trees and bare root material. Mr. Hlubik suggested that Mr. Benton speak to the Planning Board and/or the Township Committee to determine a mode of communication that functions quickly through one person.

One of the issues at the Old York Village site is the planting of Juniper trees at the school site. Ms. Jamanow and Police Chief Kyle Wilson inspected the site and determined that the trees are too tall and need to be removed because they pose a sight hazard. The members also spoke about a large area in the northeasterly portion of Old York Village that was cleared of trees. It was suggested that the area be reforested.

### Bordentown Green Fair

Ms. Bremer-Nei reported that the Bordentown Environmental Commission will be having a Green Fair on Saturday, June 12<sup>th</sup>. They have offered the Chesterfield Environmental Commission a spot for a table, free of charge. They will discuss the issue further at the next Environmental Commission Meeting.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

#### Tree City USA Bulletin No. 12

Copies of the Bulletin were distributed to the Environmental Commission members.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

At 9:30PM, there being no further comments, a motion was made by Ms Bremer-Nei, seconded by Mr. Hlubik, to adjourn. So moved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda S. Wills  
Environmental Commission Secretary