

RESORT TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

Resort Township Hall
2232 Resort Pike Petoskey, MI 49770
(231) 347-7915

Wednesday, 11 August 2010; 7:00 P.M.

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

A. Pledge of Allegiance

B. Call Meeting to Order. The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 7:02 PM.

C. Roll Call. Present were Chair Al Welsheimer, Vice Chair Leo Simon, Clerk Lucy Eppler, Mark Furgeson, Chuck Sanback, and Jennifer McKay. Absent was Tom Webster.

D. Approval of the Agenda.

Motion by Sanback
To approve the agenda as amended.

Support by Vice Chair Simon

Voice vote

Ayes

All

Nays

None

Motion carried.

E. Public Hearings

None scheduled.

F. Brief Public Comment.

Concern was expressed regarding the Vantage View property and support was expressed for a blight ordinance to protect the entire Township, including all different property types such as the Walloon residential, farmland, and subdivisions.

G. Minutes of Previous Meeting.

Motion by Sanback
To approve the minutes of the 6 July 2010 meeting.

Support by Vice Chair Simon

Voice vote

Ayes

All

Nays

None

Motion carried.

H. Communications to the Committee.

I. Reports from the Members.

Sanback told the Committee about the Walloon Lake Trust and Conservancy attempting to purchase Mud Lake (aka the Mill Pond) through the "Mud Lake Protection Project" which would combine the purchase of a 15-acre, 1,600-foot waterfront wetlands parcel with a 58-acre parcel of farm land on the eastern side of Walloon Lake at a total cost of \$575,000. Sanback indicated that any help from Resort Township would be appreciated. Chair Welsheimer noted that the Trust and Conservancy was at the Township Board meeting last night. Also, Resort Township requested a letter of support from the Walloon Trust and Conservancy for the Beeson property, but never received support. He is wondering why the Trust and Conservancy did not support the Township as we should be working together to protect important land. Sanback will try to figure out why a letter of support was not provided.

Sanback reported that well water testing is currently being offered for free by Michigan State University Extension. Samples will be screened for nitrate, nitrite, and the pesticide 2,4-D. Pick up your sample bottle prior to Aug. 23rd and return your sample to the MSU Extension office, *on August 23rd*. For more information, contact the Emmet County MSUE office at 231-348-1770.

Vice Chair Simon has made the suggestion of creating a compost pile for leaves and grass clippings for the Township multiple times, however, has received no response from the Township Board.

Chair Welsheimer raised the issue of burning stumps for clearing of land for development and the problems it poses. The zoning ordinance needs to address or eliminate burning of stumps for developments and should require developers to chip on site or remove. It should be based on lot site to not affect single family properties.

Motion by Chair Welsheimer

Support by Clerk Eppler

To recommend to the Resort Township Planning Commission to make an amendment to the zoning ordinance to eliminate burning for clearing of developments.

Ayes

Nays

All

None

Motion carried.

J. Unfinished Business

Bay Harbor Discussion – McKay reported that CMS submitted the NPDES permit application to the MDNRE. The application proposes treatment for the Development, but no treatment is proposed for East Park. CMS proposes to dilute the leachate and discharge it to Lake Michigan at East Park. In addition, CMS has been working on developing a treatment technology that is showing promise, currently meeting the 1.3 ppt standard for mercury during an East Park pilot study. If it continues to show promise, CMS will scale up the technology at East Park to treat the leachate. If feasible, it could be operational within 12-14 months. Furgeson inquired into if CMS is still considering the City wastewater treatment plant. Concern was expressed if CMS reconsiders that option and used it to dispose of the leachate, most of the mercury ends up in the sludge and is then land applied. It was noted that the MDNRE has offered to come to the Township to provide information on this subject to help everyone's understanding. Clerk Eppler indicated that we should schedule him to come to a meeting.

Vouchers/Recycling – New supplies are in and are being used.

Inoperable/Dismantled Vehicle Ordinance – No report

Renewable Energy Report – Webster has been participating in the Township's wind ordinance and it is an ongoing process.

K. New Business.

Roadside Cleanup – To be scheduled for sometime in September

Webster arrived at 7:40

Blight Ordinance – A blight ordinance was on the table for the Committee to consider approximately 4 years ago and was never passed due to difficulty with the definition of blight. What may be blight to one person is not blight to another. The inoperable/dismantled vehicle ordinance was passed out of the effort, but nothing more. Enforcement is also a big issue. The specific site spurring the blight discussion would not likely be addressed should the Township enact an ordinance as it would be grandfathered in. However, an ordinance would address future issues within the Township. While we have received many complaints and expressed concerns, we currently don't have a basis through zoning or other ordinance to provide action or enforcement for the certain site. Residents have requested we send a letter indicating the level of complaints/concern we have received regarding the property.

Three blight/nuisance ordinances were provided for committee members to review and consider for next meeting.

L. Announcements.

Unapproved minutes of the 11 August 2010, Environmental Committee Meeting, Page 3.

M. Adjournment.

Motion by Furgeson
To adjourn the meeting.

Support by Vice Chair Simon

Ayes
All

Nays
None

Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned by the Chair at 8:17P.M.

Note: the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Resort Township Environmental Committee will be held on Tuesday 7 September at 7:00 PM at Resort Township Hall.