

Environmental Board Minutes

February 8, 2012

Call to order – at 7:03pm

Excused Absences: Tim

Members Present: Ruth, Chris, Catherine, Martha, Spencer, new members Bill Beck and Sam Garceau

Introduction of new members, Bill and Sam

January minutes approved

Old Business

Water Treatment Plant – Chris reported the area in front of the plant requires a different planting scheme. The three mounds and surrounding area are dried out and ravaged by deer. The area needs a new planting scheme reflecting the facility as an automated plant – the outside should reflect the inside. Bill, Ruth, Martha and Catherine will meet with Chris to develop an action plan for March's EB meeting.

PLS Update to City Council – Ruth reported the PLS annual report and update were well received. The Council understands the need for additional funding. Fund raising was discussed and a Council member, Ed Sackley contributed \$45 to the project. EB discussed funding along with approval of the EB's PLS proposal to the Council to increase its annual PLS budget from \$500 to \$1,000. Marty will send an e-mail to members to develop funding options. Also, Marty will be meeting with Austin Lake Riparians to share PLS bio-control plans. Ruth will provide listing of other lake associations to contact and discuss PLS. EB plans on August 11 for tour of PLS sites in Portage and PLS "pull" on August 18 – to be finalized with Parks Dept.

Invasive plant pulls – three dates planned, April 21, May 19 and a September date to be determined.

Park Board – Upcoming meeting will determine park assignments.

Re-cycling – Next month contracts up for re-bid, single stream a component along with who pays for bigger re-cycling bins. "Parking lot" item involves plasma gasification instead of burning waste.

EB Display Board – Next display expand on March Portager article, Martha and Catherine will author article and design display with target date April 1, topic – do's and don'ts of pulling garlic mustard.

Green-a-thon – Sarah reported Feb 30, Youth Committee will have a list of businesses invited to the event. EB will again provide a display booth.

New Business

2012 Home Expo – Chris reported the City of Portage will participate in a Kalamazoo County display booth on water quality. Expo dates are March 7-10.

Martha is EB's new Vice-Chairperson and Spencer the Secretary.

Wild Ones meeting 6:30pm, Feb 22, at First Methodist Church.

Public comments

Bill Hughes of Environmental Concerns Committee reported Kalamazoo Metro buses suspending the use of bio-diesel fuels causing mechanical problems. Discussed PCB sediments in Portage Creek, Allied superfund sites.

EB member comments

Sarah has accepted an invitation to participate in a environmental program this summer in upstate New York.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45pm

Next meeting, March 14, 7pm at City Hall