

# Environmental Board Minutes

January 11, 2012

Members Present: Catherine, Martha, Sarah, Ruth, Becca, Marty, Tim and Chris

Excused Absence: Spenser

Call to order 7:02

Replacement members Samuel Garceau and William Beck will be joining our Environmental Board!

Resignation – Becca Schramm has some family changes that have come up. She will be resigning as of Jan 11, 2011.

Approval of last month's minutes

Old Business

Purple loosestrife update (Marty)

- Annual report signed by the chairperson.
- The subgroup considering this year's PLS activities met and Marty prepared a draft proposal. Catherine and Ruth have sent comments to Marty. The final version will be sent out before our next meeting..
- Final proposal to be presented to the city council by March 1.

Discussion of future PL program (all)

- The bio-control (beetle) program is part of our action plan. Other measures may be used in low-density areas (1 or less plants per square yard).
- Locating and monitoring
  - Monitoring will continue and include updates to the PLS map
  - The city might be able to take phone calls for sightings of PLS. A form for the person taking the calls will be put together by Catherine.
  - Use special interest groups to help locate and treat low-density areas
    - Canoe or kayak groups
    - Adventure Groups
    - Local Boy scouts
    - Marinas
    - Kalamazoo River Watershed Groups
    - High School Students looking for volunteer auditors
  - West Lake, Gourdneck Lake, Sugarloaf Lake, Austin Lake, and Long Lake Associations may also be interested in helping. Marty will speak to the Austin Lake property owners at their annual meeting. Chris will send the contacts for other lake associations to Ruth.

- Catherine and Martha to write an article for the May Portager about PLS. Due April 15.
- Catherine will find out how local news will be appearing in the new mLive format since we may also be able to use this to recruit volunteers.
- Looking for phragmites, another invasive plant that prefers the same habitat as PLS, at the same time we look for PLS should be considered. Ruth will send out a site with information on phragmites.
- Members of the board are interested in looking at PLS in July of 2012. A date will be proposed.
- Possible application for a grant for monitoring
  - Apply for a grant for the Nature Center to set up a program
  - Christ will send a template for a grant proposal.
- Pick a day with the Parks to have Purple Loosestrife Day
  - Volunteers could look for PLS and help remove or cut new infestations
  - Ruth to work on a new day to propose working with parks for PLS
- John Milo is a good contact for any efforts involving the parks.
- Our website should be updated with information for volunteers.
- Catherine will bring a form about monitoring from the 4H guide on PLS.
- Learn from PLS and apply to other invasive species in Portage

#### Update to City Council (Ruth)

- January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2011

#### Austin Lake EB board update

- Chris to remove the material currently on the display at Austin Lake
- Martha and Catherine to devise a plan for future postings

#### Sewer hook-up deferment (Chris)

- The deferment subcommittee was held on December 27<sup>th</sup>, 2011. A deferment was granted for 8 months to 1813 Mandigo Avenue.

#### Other – Curbside recycling

- The bidding process for the recycling business in the City of Portage includes current recycling methods as well as single stream recycling
- Tim offered to help with reviewing bids. Chris will let Tim know when the bid reviews occur

#### New Business

- Tim will take the minutes next month

- Tim interested in recycling for apartments
- March 1<sup>st</sup> Martha and Catherine will write a garlic mustard article Portager
- Sarah will share information on the invasive pulling days with the National Honor Society
- Chris will send out drawings of the water treatment plant landscaping to support discussion at our next meeting.

#### Board member comments and announcements

- Michigan Wildflower Association conference on Sunday and Monday on the first weekend of March 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>
- Green-a-thon is April 28<sup>th</sup> from 12-4.
  - Next meeting of the Youth Advisory Board where this will be discussed is January 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30
- Kalamazoo River Watershed Council discussing a summer festival
  - Board might be interested
  - Focus on a celebration of water

#### Public comments

- None present.

Adjourn 8:36

#### Ongoing items:

- Water treatment plant landscape (Chris)
- Purple loosestrife control
  - Funding request by March 2012 (Marty)
  - Education of lake property owners (esp. related to PLS)
  - Articles on invasive plants in Portager; May (GM) and June (PLS) (Catherine/Martha)
  - Schedule PLS day with Park Board (Ruth)
  - Schedule PLS tour for EB (Marty/Ruth)
  - Update PLS distribution map (Marty)
  - Plan to monitor PLS in bio-control areas
- Single stream recycling
- Availability of recycling to apartments and condos (Tim)
- Cooperation with Park Board (Ruth)
  - Preparation for April 21 invasive pull
- EB display at Austin Lake (Catherine/Martha)
- Plans for April 28 Green-A-Thon (Sarah)

#### Parking lot issues:

- Single provider of waste services
- Idle reduction (Martha)

- Tracking/reporting on related organizations
- Participation on water resources festival (Chris)

Next meeting: February 8, 2012 at 7:00pm in City Hall