

Environmental Board Meeting Minutes

2.10.21 Meeting

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Call to Order:

--Meeting called to order at 7:00pm.

--Due to COVID 19, all members participated remotely.

--Members Present: Thomas Shaffer, Loren Kimeldorf. Deirdre Courtney, Chelsea Huber, Lauren McMullan, Jerry Kroehn, Roger Lonoza, Grace Freed (Youth Advisory), Assistant City Engineer Jamie Harmon (ex officio)

--Prior meeting minutes approved.

Welcome/Guests:

--Rick Freiman: congratulated the Board on the Climate Action Resolution. Climate Action Plan is next! Encouraged members to keep moving forward and encouraging the City to do the same.

-Rick also mentioned a condominium unit being built near Hardings and residents are not happy due, in part, to environmental concerns. Discussed the adverse effects that runoff will have to the bogs and that smaller units have a lesser carbon footprint.

Climate Action Resolution:

--Passed the previous night at City Council meeting.

--Discussed attaching the resolution to our webpage.

--Jaime reiterated that a resolution is really unprecedented for the City.

--Onward to a full Climate Action Plan.

--Thomas to send Thank You cards.

Joint Mosquito Meeting/MSU Scientists Update:

--Joe and Thomas met with Kzoo EB chair and discussed collaborating efforts. The idea of a question and answer session was brought up to be submitted for our website as a

public education approach to the topic.

--Andy was not present to update on the MSU Scientists. Table this for next month.

--Panel discussion with the community will be the ultimate objective.

Portager Articles:

--Joe's article made the latest Portager.

--Chelsea to tweak the last Garlic Mustard article and submit the week before next month's meeting.

Webpage/Info-Sharing Update:

--Continued the discussion about developing our own webpage and what information to post.

--Subcommittee formed: Joe, Lauren, Loren, and Deirdre

--(See ideas for contributions in last month's minutes).

--Board discussed inviting the community to submit nature photos.

Garlic Mustard Pull Signup:

--4/25: Chelsea, Thomas

--5/2: Chelsea, Jerry

--5/8: Lauren, Loren

--5/16: Deirdre, Lauren

--5/30: Thomas, Andy

--6/6: Deirdre, Joe

--Discussed having snack donated by local stores or restaurants. Check with Parks Board as they already have certain participating businesses.

Unfinished Business:

--Deer – Heard from Jerry. Members reiterated that we have already made our recommendation to the City and the issue is simply on the backburner given pandemic budget concerns. There really will be no movement on this issue and the topic needs to be removed from further agendas.

--Green-A-Thon: Upcoming! Jaime to send info! Will need to be on the next Agenda.

TO-DO for next meeting and before:

--Thomas to write thank you cards.

--Chelsea to tweak Garlic Mustard article and submit.

--The new Webpage/Info-Sharing Committee to meet/touch base.

Motion to adjourn; approved:

-Meeting ended at 8:45p.m.

/s/ Portage Environmental Board