

## **Environmental Commission Meeting: August 3, 2022 (Revised)**

### **SUMMARY**

The Environmental Commission continued reviewing the Climate Sustainability Plan with updates on energy, food composting, water managements, and recycling.

### **AGENDA & MINUTES**

Agenda and minutes approved with some changes.

### **PESTICIDES**

Public notices of the application of pesticides in public places were discussed. The township does not actively control mosquitoes, but it was discussed that in the past, pesticides have been used at schools and parks. In this case, notices were sent out. McConnell suggested looking into park procedures for notifying residents when applying treatments. He also suggested social media could be used for notices.

### **CLIMATE SUSTAINABILITY PLAN UPDATES**

#### **Energy:**

Sarver mentioned the statistics on greenhouse gas emission reductions were discussed with reductions in several major township buildings. One objective is to achieve energy cost savings for township facilities. Coordinating with MSU's energy assessment center discussed to track usage. Another objective is to explore other opportunities like federal funding for projects. The last objective is to explore educational opportunities. McConnell discussed the success of the Solarize Meridian project.

#### **Food composting**

Lafferty highlighted that there has been a lot of volunteer interest for the gleaning initiative. Colby reported that 1,167 pounds have been collected since the start of the program. Next steps for expanding the program distributions were discussed. McConnell discussed that several places are exploring options for disposing organic waste not in a landfill, so there are future opportunities to expand.

#### **Water Management**

McConnell discussed the additions to the water management section of the plan and suggested a system for tracking new additions to make it easier to see what parts are new. Grasseschi spoke on how the importance and benefits of wetlands in the township were added to the section. McConnell suggested adding information about how much township wetland has been protected as a result of the township regulations. This could go towards evaluating how the ordinance could be possibly be adjusted in the future. The objectives include furthering public education, continuing to monitor and measure conditions of wetlands, increase wetland acreage, and increase wetland functionality. McConnell suggested a new assessment of wetlands might be needed. It was agreed that it would be beneficial to contact a consultant to see if a comprehensive assessment is needed and what it could cost. Harvey mentioned a state wide assessment is currently being done. Colby suggested it would be beneficial to know not only the amount of wetlands but also the condition of them. It was discussed that to increase wetlands, it might be necessary to purchase land. Harvey mentioned that the green infrastructure audit will need to be included in the section. Expanding native plant education was discussed using demonstrations within the community. McConnell suggested being ambitious with specific goals and targets in all sections. Grasseschi mentioned that additions on Lake Lansing will be included.

## **Recycling & Waste Reduction**

It was mentioned that communications and marketing of recycling initiatives could be improved. Having a single hauler in the township was removed from the plan. Frazier mentioned that it is difficult to get exact data from private waste haulers, and it was mentioned that it might be possible to receive data from EGLE instead of directly from the private haulers. This would depend on if they have data on specific areas or if it is broad across the state. Colby requested looking into obtaining data on organic waste if possible. It was discussed to explore if licenses are required for haulers to operate in the township.

## **REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Grasseschi mentioned there is an opening on the Land Preservation Advisory Board. Colby suggested making adjustments to the application process for boards.
- There will be a future compost and rain barrel sale along with a recycling event.
- Harvey mentioned information on staff updates can be found at [bit.ly/update-leroy](https://bit.ly/update-leroy) (also linked below). He mentioned exploring funding opportunities. <https://sites.google.com/view/staff-update/home> or [here](#)