<p style="text-align:center">Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes: May 3, 2023 (corrected)</p>

Attending: Bill McConnell, John Sarver, Emma Andrechek, Anna Colby, Tom Frazier, Courtney Wisinski, LeRoy Harvey

Absent: Kendra Grasseschi, Amelia Saffron, Graham Diedrich, Ned Jackson

Public Remarks: Resident Bruce Peffers shared an overview of Green Burial and an update about activities in the region. Normally green burial eliminates embalming and involves a biodegradable casket, wicker, or shroud (no liner or vault). There are three approaches including a natural area (no lawns), a nature preserve, or a section of more of a traditional cemetery. Peffers spoke with the Land Preservation Board and the Parks Board and now the Environmental Commission. He suggests that a section of Glenview - the Cemetery on Mt. Hope - is one possibility near the columbarium. The Green Burial Team may approach the Board to discuss changes that might allow non-cement vaults. He also mentioned [Gabriele Mayer's presentation](#) and the popularity of green burial in public comments about the Master Plan.

New Business: Chair McConnell asked for more clarity on procedures related to allocations such as the wetland budget and the green grants. Colby asked how budget items get to the Board. Wisinski mentioned that this comes at budget time typically from a Trustee or a Staff Director. Colby also suggested that we might discuss our funding priorities as part of our planning efforts. McConnell suggested that we might have a formal discussion at a future meeting or consider a working group to discuss. Sarver offered to share the Green Grant process. McConnell will invite Grasseschi to share budget priorities from the Wetland Education Committee. Sarver asked about changes that might come during the middle of the year. Wisinski mentioned a difference between line item amendments vs. new line items. Grants were also mentioned as a possible way to support the EC initiatives..

Old Business: Colby offered to discuss the Food System at the next meeting and suggested that it be included in the June Packet. McConnell suggested that it be the main item on the agenda in June. Harvey mentioned that we have not heard from Manager Walsh's Intern. On that note, another Intern, Sam Fleckenstein (U of M Graham Sustainability Institute), will be starting later in the month to help work on promoting lake-healthy landscaping, green fairs, and environmental promotion. McConnell also mentioned connecting with the Student Organic Farm and Biernbaum Farm.

Updates:
Andrechek reported that the Earth Club held a Bake and Plant Sale to support the student greenhouse. Wisinski stated that Meridian is putting together a Board/Commissioner training.

Sarver reports that 60 people attended the recent Solarize meeting. The next Solarize meeting will be held on June 13 at 7pm. An energy report from MSU will be completed soon.

Colby provided an update from the Good Food/Smart Compost (GFSC) committee, summarizing a report from Valerie Lafferty. John Krohn from the Land Bank explained their compost and garden initiatives. Mike Dombrowski described the Eastside Compost initiative. Lindsay Walker will present on Zoom about the Emmet Co. compost program. There's also an upcoming tour of MSU's anaerobic digester. May 10-11 is the Michigan Recycling Conference and June 1 is a tour of the Biernbaum Farm.

Frazier provided an update of the Spring Recycling Event. The next event will be a medicine collection at the Farmers Market on May 20.

Harvey shared a link to his staff report: https://sites.google.com/view/staff-update/home

Environmental Stewardship Award: Colby moved to adopt the resolution in the packet recognizing the stewardship efforts of Steve Thomas. Thomas spoke briefly, commending the Township on its Land Preservation Program and its investment in its Parks. As a naturalist he appreciates the opportunity to work in natural areas. McConnell asked Thomas if he'd offer a tip to the E.C. to include in the Climate Sustainability Plan.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:53pm!