



**CITY OF PORT WASHINGTON  
ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING COMMITTEE**

**Wednesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2014**

**8:30 – 9:30 a.m.**

**City Hall Lower Level Conference Room**

**Draft Minutes**

- 1. Roll Call** **8:30**
  - Present by Phone:
    - Derek Strohl
  - Present in person:
    - Brenda Frisch
    - Christina Brickner
    - Lisa Rathke
    - Loras Lux
    - Patti Lemkuil
    - Steve Mulligan
    - Burt Babcock
    - Eric Ryer
    - Rob Vanden Noven
    - Sarah Deering
    - Shawn Graff
    - Tom Mlada
- 2. Approve minutes from March 5<sup>th</sup> meeting** **8:30-8:35**
  - No changes - minutes approved
- 3. Public appearances and comments** **8:35-8:40**
- 4. Budget update** **8:40-8:45**
  - No significant update to report
  - Current actual expenditures: \$100
  - Approved/pending expenditures:
    - Bird city
    - Internship
    - \$2,500 for infosystem (safety system for rip tides, etc)
  - Remaining unallocated budget: \$5,000
- 5. Relevant committee updates** **8:45-9:00**
  - Committee membership
    - Full membership attained
    - Chair:
      - Derek out of town in June & July - does the committee want to consider a different chair since Derek will not be around?
      - Committee votes Derek to continue as Chair for additional year
      - Rob is Vice Chair - will cover in Derek's absence
  - Public Works projects
    - Starting Smith Bros parking lot soon
      - Biofiltration element will be added
      - Scheduled to be complete by June but coordination factors may cause delays
    - High School Improvements

- Board of Public Works agreed to leave in the trees and buffer around the parking lot as planned - not well received by school district
  - Brenda requested clarification - recap of plans provided by Rob
- Student leader advisory group
  - Up to 25 students who meet 3-4 times per year
  - Relevant discussions during last meeting:
    - Carpooling
      - 11 of 12 represented, carpool
      - Open to idea of incentive for carpooling
    - Outside green space
      - Desired - available space gets snatched quickly
  - Rain Garden will not be installed
  - Swale will be installed
- TriPar - Where are the Gas Tanks going?
  - Tanks are being removed & sold
  - Autoparts store is going in
- NOAA National Marine Sanctuary
  - Back in discussion with NOAA regarding creation of national marine sanctuary in Lake Michigan
  - Background:
    - Discussed years ago but no budget was available so discussion was tabled
    - Budget now available - now revisiting
    - Area is identified along shoreline - would run from Port Wash thru Two Rivers
    - Originally was looking at one community with large presence - now looking at smaller presence in all impacted communities
    - Hoping dialog will bring a presence to Port Washington
  - 4-6 year out project
  - Potential location for learning facility within Port:
    - Parking studies - underused parking space
    - Historical Society
    - Coal Dock Park?
  - Opportunity for us to educate a whole new generation of kids - responsibility we have living on the Great Lakes

## 6. Old business

9:00-9:10

- Bird City application
  - Accepted - thanks to Shawn for taking the lead
  - Public ceremony requested
  - Reviewed received feedback as to why our application was accepted (ie Coal Dock Park, We Energies established wetland, Tourism Council partnership)
  - Wisconsin is 2nd in the nation for birding
  - Annual renewal process - after several years can reach sustained status
  - Want to look at High Flyer status going forward
  - Have to recognize International Migratory Bird Day - May 3rd at Forest Beach (7am) - will start with bird tours
    - Looking at bird counter at Coal Dock Park same day or a presentation at Forest Beach about Coal Dock Park
      - Patti has volunteered to complete bird counting from 7:30 - 8:30am
      - Rob to provide slides from coastal management for presentation
    - Flyers will be distributed next week

- Gold Metal Recognition
  - Application submitted by Park & Rec
  - Recognizes parks planning
- Sister City relationship
  - Holland, MI and Port Wash, NY explored as option - not a good fit
  - Burlington, Vermont
    - Thursday, phone introduction to see if interest in going forward with sister city
    - Largest city in Vermont
    - On Lake Champlain
    - Waterfront revitalization/investment plan - viewed change from 1990 to present day
    - Coincidentally, similar geographic footprint
    - Reference Burlington Mayor Office page (<http://www.burlingtonvt.gov/Mayor>) for benefits gained from sister city relationship with Nishinomiya, Japan
  - Internationally - Germany as option for future partnerships - Germany is 5th largest importer to WI

## 7. New business

9:10-9:30

- Review of and action on Internship applicant
  - Resume received - Hanne Guthrie
    - Looking to start May 19th
    - Wants 20-25 hrs per week extending through August
    - Requests facilities tour - has already toured Port Washington area
    - Highly recommended - perfect candidate
    - Resume accepted
    - Identified projects included
      - Energy benchmarking
      - Composting
      - Green Business Program?
  - Green business program
    - Merging of environmental and economic - bringing local businesses on board
    - Reviewed examples
      - Tiered example - sold as 'challenge' (Westchester County)
      - Point system (Franklin, TN)
      - San Francisco
      - Portland, OR
    - Potential requirements:
      - Will need broad buy in from Chamber, Mainstreet
      - Certification Process
      - Sustainable Action Plan
    - **Between now and May – Call for volunteer committee to identify basic parameters**
  - Future Meeting Location
    - Forest Park to include facility tour

## 8. Topics for next month's meeting

9:25-9:30

- Project management program
- Next meeting: May 7th

## 9. Adjourn

9:30

**Committee mission:**

*The Environmental Planning Committee's mission is to implement policies and practices that will foster economic, social, and environmental sustainability by identifying and promoting the most efficient and responsible stewardship of our resources. The Committee aims to nurture a culture of sustainability in which a balanced approach to best management practices along with smart growth and education engages and advances our city towards an environmentally enhanced future.*