



**ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP COMMISSION
MONDAY OCTOBER 28, 2024
PROPOSED MINUTES**

CALL TO ORDER AT 7:04 PM

Board member roll call

Present: Eric Geerlings

Anita Yeager

Ben Kronk

Sarah Visel

Joanne Lamar

Damon Kruger (7:40 arrival)

Mary Ann MacLaren (Chair)

Excused: Ania Crawford

Also Present: Laura Simpson, Recording Secretary

APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 28, 2024, AGENDA

Moved by A. Yeager and Supported by B. Kronk to approve the agenda for the Environmental Leadership Commission for the Meeting of October 28, 2024.

All Ayes of Those Present

Motion Passed.

ENACTMENT OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of the September 23, 2024, Meeting Minutes

Moved by B. Kronk and Supported by E. Geerlings to approve the minutes of the Environmental Leadership Commission for the Meeting of September 23, 2024.

All Ayes of Those Present

Motion Passed.

COMMISSION MEMBERS' COMMENTS - None

ACCEPTANCE OF ELC 2025 MEETING CALENDAR

Moved by S. Visel and Supported by J. Lamar to authorize the formal scheduling and publication of the Charter Township of Plymouth Environmental Leadership Commission meeting schedule for calendar year 2025.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: M. MacLaren, E. Geerlings, B. Kronk, J. Lamar, S. Visel, A. Yeager

Nays: None

Motion Passed.

- **OLD BUSINESS**

- Update on Golfview Park

Fall plantings in wooded area -

M. MacLaren indicated that she measured the area with David Hammond.

White clover and English daisy seeds have been ordered from American Meadows. These should grow well in this partially shaded area. An account has been set up under Mary Ann's name for the Environmental Leadership Commission (ELC) for Plymouth Township.

S. Visel noted that some newly planted trees from Ann Arbor Road need to be removed and replanted at Golfview Park near the planned Rain Garden area. Funds from the Wayne County Parks Millage are paying for these, in addition to solar lighting, bat and bird houses, a Monarch Way Station, a butterfly garden, more trees, bushes, grasses, and interpretive signage. ELC commissioners are each responsible for researching these individual items and will obtain price quotes. Wayne County has a specific line-item budget agreement for this project.

Update on all areas planted with native plant seeds -

All planted areas throughout the Township will need to be mowed this fall to reseed in the spring. It was noted that these seeds have also been ordered and contain annual and perennial native Midwest seed mix and will be planted after the last frost, around the first or second week in May. David Hammond is requesting volunteer help during the work week. Ben has some local businesses who have indicated they may have individuals willing to assist. There has also been discussion with students from the high school about designing a sculpture for the park.

- Next steps for Landscape Ordinance and other sustainability

- Next steps – Joanne has been trying to compare the Township's ordinance with the City of Plymouth. M. MacLaren noted that she will send information to the Planning Commission on the removal of goldenrod from the invasive species list.

- ELC page on the township website. Any updates?

B. Kruger presented three small articles to go on the website but has not heard back.

- B. Kruger will share details of his ongoing outreach to local businesses and sustainability commissions in neighboring communities, including discussions on the potential for a sustainability award.

He noted that he expects more response when he has an actual event to sponsor or a volunteer date to request. An invite to volunteer for the Golfview plantings in Spring was suggested, with a date scheduled between April 28 and May 19, 2025. It was suggested to set dates at the next meeting for Golfview installations, which Ben can give to his business contacts.

- Master Plan – landscape ordinance. Any updates?

M. MacLaren will communicate with Dennis Cebulski and the Planning Department regarding the Master Plan status.

- Michigan Green Communities Challenge – How to reach Gold Status?

S. Visel noted there is no change, since the ELC hasn't added any new achievements.

- Update on booth at Plymouth Community Farmers Market on October 19

M. MacLaren has the handouts, banner, and dog baggies at her house, and noted that people attending the booth did express interest in household composting. A suggestion was made to survey public interest in composting. If there is sufficient interest, ideas on how to pay for it were also discussed. Eric and Ben will investigate contacts and cost. Ania has a list of contacts and research, too.

- Update about meeting with Chuck Curmi – He will plan a meeting closer to November 20.

- **NEW BUSINESS**

- Bee City project – report by Anita
Beecityusa.org was pretty interesting, and it encourages creating and enhancing habitat. A few other local communities and campuses have participated. It has many requirements but also has an annual cost.

- Comprehensive portfolio with carefully selected objectives for 2025:

Golfview, Food Compost, the 2025 Master Plan, the ELC Speaker Series, Website Updates, Michigan Green Challenge, plant trees for Tree City USA and ReLeaf for Arbor Day around April 25, 2025, and working with Friends of the Rouge and Spaulding DeDecker to engineer and plant Rain Gardens at Golfview.

J. Lamar discussed speakers for 2025. An “Environmental Leadership Commission Winter Speaker Series” was discussed, in which to educate the public, by having a class, perhaps utilizing English Gardens, David Hammond, Plymouth Pollinators, Gateway Farms, or in conjunction with the Plymouth District Library. Other dates

suggested were late September 2025, or at the installation of a sign or dedication. May 6-9, 2025, were dates discussed for the seed planting at Golfview. It was noted that any of these classes or speakers should be well advertised. Green Living Science will be contacted by J. Lamar for a January 27th meeting, or E. Geerlings volunteered to speak about an environmental issue. B. Kronk will investigate speakers for February and March and may utilize one of the businesses he has been in contact with.

COMMISSIONERS FINAL COMMENTS - None

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS - None

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by B. Kronk and Supported by D. Kruger to adjourn the October 28, 2024, Environmental Leadership Commission Meeting at 8:54 PM.

All Ayes of Those Present

Motion Passed.

The Public is invited and encouraged to attend all meeting of the Environmental Leadership Commission of the Charter Township of Plymouth.

