



**Environmental Commission Minutes**  
**Tuesday – March 5, 2024**  
**7:00 p.m.**

The Environmental Commission meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Jonah Pichette

**ROLL CALL:** Present: Michael Walton, Virginia Schmidt, Shantanu Pahi, Sue Metzler, Jonah Pichette  
Also Present: Patrick Jeffers, Assistant Director of Engineering and Karen Labbe,  
Council Representative

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**Mr. Pichette motioned to approved February 6, 2023 minutes with the correction: The Garden Club Event is *March 16, 2024* (not March 18, 2024).**  
**Mr. Walton seconded the Motion.**  
**Motion unanimously passed.**

**PRESENTATIONS:** None presented.

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:**

- Mitch Edgecomb discussed additional information for his proposed ordinance to City Council to reduce single use waste, specifically shopping bags.  
Mr. Edgecomb discussed the hidden costs of checkout bags that retailers stock. He stated this average is 3 cents per plastic bag and 10 cents per paper bag.  
He discussed in detail the benefits and costs of using reusable bags and the positive long term effects.
- Cindy Kurt, the Environmental Science teacher from Twinsburg High School discussed the stations and activities her students will have for the Earth Day, including invasive vs. native board, seed planting, pine cone bird feeders, “Choose this Not That”, craft station, and recycle station.  
Ms. Kurt discussed that her students will participate at this event and help with setup at the stations.



### **COMMISSIONERS REPORTS and DISCUSSIONS:**

- Mr. Walton shared that the Cleveland Water Department open house will be on Sunday, May 11, 2024 at the Garrett Morgan water treatment plant on West 45<sup>th</sup> Street, Cleveland. This tour is open to the public and information can be found at [clevelandwater.com](http://clevelandwater.com). Registrations begins on March 11<sup>th</sup>.
- Ms. Schmidt announced that Twinsburg Garden Club is hosting an educational opportunity on – March 16<sup>th</sup> at 11:00am - Seed Starting presentation at the Twinsburg Library, by Alyssa Mills from Tinkers Creek. There is a free seed library, March 21<sup>st</sup> at the Friends Shop. There will be 42 different types of seeds, including native seeds and open pollinated non-GMO vegetables, and other flowers.
- Mr. Pahi did not have a report at this time.
- Ms. Metzel discussed the use of a milk jug as a seed starting greenhouse. She thought this may be a good station for Earth Day. She also discussed that she is a member of the Arbor Day Foundation and she shared resources for ordering tree and bushes.
- Mr. Pichette reported The Earth Day event is scheduled for April 20, 2024 at Liberty Park – 10:00am to 2:00pm. He discussed partnering with the THS Environmental Club and encouraged Commission members to attend.  
Mr. Pichette shared the Shredding Day event is June 8, 2024. Patrick Jeffers stated he has confirmed this date with Public Works department and is waiting to confirm with the shredding company.  
The Waste Management new recycling facility tour will be scheduled for April 19<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm.  
The Waste Water Treatment Plant tour is scheduled for August 7<sup>th</sup>, time to be determined.  
Mr. Pichette discussed that he would like to start Ward and Park cleanups. He discussed providing this as an opportunity for residents to volunteer with the Environmental Commission. Event details can be posted on the City and Community Facebook pages. Members discussed how this can be organically started and promoted.

### **COUNCIL REPORT:**

- Ms. Labbe did not have a report at this time.



**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Shopping Bag Waste Reduction Proposal

- Members discussed moving forward and how to support this proposal, banning plastic bags or initially phasing out.
- Mr. Walton stated that he feels that this should be a slower process and more information is needed and additional research needs to be done.
- Members discussed how we can encourage less plastic bag use. It was also discussed how to monitor the progress and adoption of this proposal.
- Ms. Labbe suggested a presentation and information be available at the Earth Day event.

**Ms. Metzel presented a Motion to table this Proposal discussion until the next meeting. The Motion was seconded. Motion unanimously passed.**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Mr. Pichette motioned to partner with the Cindy Kurt and Twinsburg High School Environmental Club for the Earth Day Event and allow the Club to bring a variety of stations and activities that will energize the event. Mr. Walton seconded the Motion. Motion unanimously passed.**

**MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:**

Members discussed the March 23<sup>rd</sup>, Center Valley Park clean up. Bags will be provided by the City. Mr. Jeffers will coordinate with Public Works for this activity.

**EXCUSE ABSENT MEMBERS:**

**Mr. Pichette motioned to excuse absent members: Sandra Banes, Alyssa Ursem and Lyn Tansing. Ms. Schmidt seconded the Motion. Motion unanimously passed.**

**NEXT MEETING DATE:** April 2, 2024 at 7:00pm.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting adjourned at 7:56pm