



**Liberty Township Environmental Commission  
Minutes of Monthly Meeting**

**August 19, 2021**

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act. This meeting was advertised on the Township Website Blog as in-person at the Township municipal building and on LTEC's Facebook page.

**ROLL CALL:**

Present: Chair Larry Supp, Vice-Chair Doug Hankin, Maureen Bonner, Rich Larsen, Martine Kieffer, Doug Wright, first alternate Diane Gonski  
Absent: Michael Hoffman and Sarah Longo

**Approval of minutes:**

- July 15, 2021 Minutes – a correction to be made adding Rich to Community Day “committee”. Motion was made by Diane Gonski to approve, seconded by Larry Supp. All in favor.

**Communications:** None

**Old Business:**

- **Community Day Preparations** – Document handout titled “LTEC Plan for Community Day – September 25, 2021. The theme will be Protecting Our Waters – Streams, Lakes and Ground Water. Maureen made a motion to approve the purchase of a sandwich board poster to be used at Community Day, Martine seconded. All in favor. Additional prizes for a Corn Hole game will be researched. A motion was made by Doug Hankin to approve up to \$200 in expenditures for additional supplies that may be needed (sandwich board posters, prizes, etc.), seconded by Martine. All in favor. There will be an expert from the Warren County Health Department present at our tent at Community Day to discuss septic safety and health with the public who stop by. A Facebook post will be done to advise the community of the event and that the expert will be present.
- **Garden and Wildflower patch update** – Rich is still helping to maintain. Public awareness about the garden will be mentioned at the upcoming Mountain Lake Community Association annual meeting. A future sandwich board poster with photos/labels of the flowers/plants was discussed but tabled for now and to be revisited after some review of the photos and possible layout of a poster, possibly for next year.

- **Lake monitoring update** – Most recent DEP results were good. Clarity had gone down a few weeks ago but is now good. Algae results:
  - **Beach area** – 6,000 cells - No Harmful Algae Bloom (HAB) because levels are below 20,000)
  - **North station** – No HAB
  - **Mid station** – 29,000 cells “Watch” level
  - **South station** – 15,000 cells – NO HAB

Phosphorus readings are good now, better than at the beginning of the season. Readings always tend to be higher at lower depths. Princeton Hydro will continue to help us with ways to keep those levels low, as high phosphorus levels can promote a HAB. There are possible products that can be used to coat the bottom to help control the phosphorus levels, something to consider for the future.

### **New Business:**

- **Solitude chemical/treatment safety inquiry** – MSDS sheets for all chemicals used by Solitude were obtained along with a document listing them and their safety levels. The EC will be seeking clarification from the Town Committee regarding the EC’s role in recommending these treatments going forward. It needs to be made clear to the Town Committee that the EC’s recommendations are not based on expert advice. Rich made a motion to inquire about a local safety expert to evaluate the chemicals that are being used to treat the weeds at the beach, which could be paid for with excess funds left over from only using half the year’s budgeted funds for the treatment, subject to the inquiry/estimate. Motion was seconded by Doug Hankin. Doug Wright abstained, all others in favor.
- **Reinstatement of the Plastic Recycling Program** – The EC has been asked to reinstate the Plastic Recycling Program and take the task back from the town Clerk and Deputy clerk who are currently organizing. After much discussion it was decided that the LTEC would not reinstate the program.

### **Additions to New Business:**

- **Septic Awareness** – September is Septic Awareness month. The EC should ask about an announcement on the digital sign outside the municipal building. Facebook posts and information should be planned.
- **In-person LTEC meetings** – With the sharp increase in COVID-19 cases there is concern about in-person meetings and if we should go back to virtual (Zoom) meetings instead. At minimum, everyone should be asked to wear masks so that no members or public attendees feel uncomfortable about attending. We will continue to monitor the situation and decide before the September meeting.

**COMMISSION MEMBER REPORTS:** None.

**APPROVAL OF EXPENDITURES:**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** There was an inquiry by a member of the public regarding the dam removal project off Marble Hill Road. Larry will inquire on the interest of the Town with regards to this matter.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Maureen made a motion to adjourn, Doug seconded. Adjournment at 8:58pm.

**NEXT MEETING September 16, 2021**