

## City of Portage Environmental Advisory Board Minutes for March 09, 2022

7:00pm Welcome & call meeting to order

Members present: Thomas Shaffer, Jerry Kroehn, Justin Gish, Joe Chamberlain, David Lancaster, Nicole Reid, Jaime Harmon, Deirdre Nieves

Approval of previous meeting's minutes

- Jerry: February 2022 minutes did not include the discussion that took place regarding HOW items get included in the minutes.

City of Portage Green Initiatives

- Jamie handed out a document outlining the City of Portage's Sustainability Efforts

Presentation from Mitch Letter, Environmental Stewardship Director for Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy (SWMLC)

- About SWMLC
- Invasive species defined ("non-native species to the ecosystem under consideration, whose introduction causes or is likely to cause harm to the environment, economy, or human health" USDA)
- Framework for Management
  - Prevention, Eradication, Containment, Asset-based protection
- Portage's most wanted pests: Tree of Heaven, Spotted Lanternfly (not in MI yet, moves w Tree of Heaven), Oak Wilt, common Reed, GARLIC MUSTARD
- Discussion of the study "Residence Time Determines Evasiveness & Performance of Garlic Mustard in North America" published in Ecology Letters
  - Garlic mustard population density naturally declines after a decade
  - Dense garlic mustard populations connected to high earthworm and deer populations
  - Removing garlic mustard may provide an area for other plants to grow
  - Mitch's suggestion to the group:
    - do a survey of the area
    - identify high quality areas
    - map the population densities of these areas
    - create a plan based on this information
  - Group discussion of whether we should continue with the garlic mustard pulls
    - Idea - could use a sign to designate pull areas and allow people to pull at will, put pull sites on city website as geocache location, use an app (iNaturalist) where people can report sightings of garlic mustard and encourage pulling at these locations.
  - Consensus to continue the scheduled pulls this year (May-June 2022)
    - Seed area pulled with native species
      - Joe - connect with the library seed bank
      - Other option: Native Connection in Kalamazoo has native plant seed
    - Jaime Harmon will send out the sign up list so every member can volunteer (5/7, 5/15, 5/21, 6/5. Volunteer set up 8:30am, Pull 9-12)
    - Jamie will contact the parks dept about setting up & taking down tables & signs
  - Discussion about mapping areas designated for garlic mustard pulls
    - Maps of parks with a list of invasive species are available (Jamie)
    - No firm plan was made on how to move forward with this

Green-a-thon Update: Sunday, May 1, 2022

- Discussion on having a presence - video?

Update on Urban Bird Treaty Announcements - no updates (Deirdre)

City of Portage Environmental Advisory Board  
Minutes for March 09, 2022

Call in for Public Comment

- Mary Beth Henry called to ask about engagement of our youth with water issues in SWMI - Deirdre or Thomas will follow up

Joe suggested we ask the Kzoo River Watershed to speak next meeting. Passed by vote.

Discussion on webpage tabled until after the Green-A-Thon

8:45 Adjourn