

Minutes from the November 20, 2018 meeting of the Barrett Township Environmental Advisory Council held at the Evergreen Community Charter School in Cresco.

In attendance: Darryl Speicher, Kathleen Sandt, Patti O'Keefe

Absent: Sally Duffy, Jennifer Brown Mittereder

Chairman Darryl Speicher called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Approved the minutes of the September 18, 2018 meeting. Motion by Kathleen Sandt, seconded by Patti O'Keefe.

Open space maintenance year end recommendations:

Gravel Family Preserve: Mow the large field behind dog park to encourage blueberry and huckleberry growth and control encroaching gray birch. This can be done at any time the field is snow free. The vegetation may be close cut to the ground and can be done between the first killing frost and the onset of leaf pop in spring. (<https://extension.umaine.edu/blueberries/factsheets/production/pruning-lowbush-blueberry-fields/>)

Keep Parking area plowed for access to dog park and trails for winter recreation such as cross country skiing.

Pasold Farm Nature Preserve: Plow the first parking area to allow access to trail.

The EAC would also like to recognize the fantastic trail work done by the Township following last winter's incredible number of tree falls.

Mount Wismer: Plow to allow access to trails.

Ice Lake: Plow to allow access to trails.

Reorganization: All current members of the EAC would like to continue to serve in 2019.

Chairman: Darryl Speicher

Vice Chairman: Kathleen Sandt

Secretary: Sally Duffy

Members: Jennifer Brown Mittereder

Patti O'Keefe

EAC Meetings will be held on the third Tuesday of every other month at the Evergreen Community Charter School beginning at 6:30 pm.

January 15,

March 19

May 21

July 16

September 17

November 19

High Acres Park discussion:

There is apparently a roadside drainage issue causing water to impound at the memorial site at high Acres Park. It has apparently been like this for several years. Unfortunately, it means that the memorial site is periodically inundated with water as it was during the Veteran's day service on November 11. The EAC recommends that the Township look into the cause of the inundation and finding a remedy for that prior to adding fill at the site.

The proposed skateboard park at High Acres is a request to convert the old basketball courts along the middle branch of the Broadhead Creek. The EAC is not against the development of a skateboard park but the location of the old basketball court is a concern.

The EAC would like to recommend that the skateboard park be constructed farther away from the stream, say next to the beach volleyball court, or even better at 7 Pines which was purchased as an active recreation site. The old basketball court should be restored to a forested riparian buffer that will add to the ecosystem functions of the stream and protect water quality.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.