

Minutes: Russell Township Board of Zoning Appeals
Russell Fire-Rescue Station
Monday, March 4, 2013

Present: Steve Gokorsch, Chairman
Fred Cuffari
William Downing
Chuck Johns
John Rybak
Diana Steffen, Secretary

Also in attendance: Ric Machnics, Zoning Inspector.

Laurel School Conditional Use #380 – Annual Review of Environmental Management Plan

In attendance on behalf of Laurel School were Mary Ann Pellerano, Director of Facilities Services, Matt Stanich, Groundskeeper at the Butler Campus, and Kathy Jankowski of Knight & Stolar, Inc.

Ms. Jankowski said she submitted the 2012 update on 02/14/13. She said Mr. Stanich has worked hard to use a minimal amount of chemicals at the site, and has started marking up a site map with areas of specific invasive plant species so he can follow through later on whether the applications were successful, or whether a change in application is required. They are making headway with the invasive species. They have had success with the phragmites, and continue to work on the glossy buckthorn, multi-flora rose and barberry, all of which are common invasive plants in this area. When the barberry produces fruit the birds distribute the seeds, or a branch that falls in a stream will carry seeds downstream. Modifications to the applications for garlic mustard have been effective. They consult with the Chagrin River Watershed Partners whenever they find new invasive plants at the site.

Ms. Jankowski explained that the documentation in the daily maintenance logs shows very good follow-through. C.R.W.P. reviewed the E.M.P. and found everything satisfactory, and complimented Laurel School on the improved diligence at the campus, which is due to the efforts of Mr. Stanich, the groundskeeper. The review mentioned three minor recommendations which Ms. Jankowski has taken care of: 1) correcting the botanical name of phragmites in the E.M.P; 2) adding text to one paragraph to follow through on what had already been discussed; 3) adding the Spill/Release Incident Reporting Form to the E.M.P.

Last year was a good year at the Butler Campus, according to Ms. Jankowski, and she hoped that the snow this winter will refill the ponds which suffered from the drought last year. In 2012 the ponds were low and they refilled them with city water instead of drawing from the water well. When there was a drought one summer early on at the site the manager at that time had to truck water in. Mr. Machnics asked whether using city water, which has chemicals such as chlorine in it, has any effect on the environment. Ms. Jankowski explained that they did not see any effect when the ponds were tested in the fall. Pond 1 never was filled to the overflow level, so any chlorine would have dissipated. This water did not reach Griswold Creek. She said that in the city they use a lot of chlorinated water and have never seen any detrimental effect.

With regard to the pond testing done in the fall, Ms. Jankowski said that no results were out of the normal range, and none of the ponds were overflowing. They had to take water out of Pond 1 to do the test but it was within the normal range too. Now they are testing once only in the fall, and that is a good time to do so after the application of chemicals and fertilizers, when the results would show anything detrimental. Mrs. Steffen will email the pond testing results to Mr. Cuffari.

Mr. Gokorsch asked about the sentence, "Broad-spectrum weed control – to all turf areas" on page 2 of the E.M.P. Ms. Jankowski explained that this is part of the general site maintenance program, and the items are meant to be guidelines for regular maintenance, but are not meant to be followed word for word.

