

## **Environmental Advisory Committee**

### **Minutes March 3, 2015**

The Matthews Environmental Committee met in regular session on March 3, 2015 at the Public Works Facility. Members present were Chairman Gordon Miller, Ollie Frazier, David Ross, John Lynch, Bob Stratton and Scott Baranowski. Also present were Jack Killiebrew from Republic Services, along with Rosalind Cumming and Ralph Messera from Public Works.

Mr. Miller called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. The February minutes were reviewed and approved.

Mr. Killiebrew gave the Republic Services report stating that the bad weather had caused some problems, but all trash pickup had been caught up and was back on track now.

Under other issues on solid waste, it was mentioned that Linda Ashendorf with Republic Services, is wanting to meet with the Town Manager, Mr. Messera and the new Finance Director, concerning the upcoming trash contract. Mr. Messera also stated that April 18<sup>th</sup> is Earth Day and a celebration would again be held at Stumptown Park. In addition, this year a half day has been set aside for all non essential employees to participate in a Town wide litter pick up on Friday April 17<sup>th</sup>. Teams will be formed to pick up litter within the Town.

On Storm Water issues, the appeal was heard from Carrington Place concerning the penalty at 600 Fullwood Lane. In attendance for this hearing were several members of the Carrington Place Nursing Center staff: Jeff Fox, Maintenance Supervisor, Linda Howard, President, and Marissa Helbing, Administrator. Also in attendance were John McCulloch, Water Quality Supervisor, Rusty Rozzelle, Water Quality Program Manager, Preston Hines, Environmental Inspector, and Ryan Spidel, Senior Environmental Specialist.

Carrington Place was originally charged with a storm water penalty on 5/9/13 for paint discharge. The Matthews Fire Department was out at Carrington Place on 11/25/14 when they noticed an odd discharge and contacted Mecklenburg County for further inspection. When the representatives from Mecklenburg County arrived at the location, they examined the discharge and smelt wastewater. Several photos were presented in consecutive order, by Mecklenburg County detailing the history of the events:

Figure 1, May 9, 2013 showed the discharge of paint that Carrington received a penalty for

Figure 2, Nov 25, 2014 showed the discharge through the grassy area

Figure 3, Nov 25, 2014 showed the washbasin

Figure 4, & 5 Nov 25, 2014 displayed the trench drain where there had been an overflow

Figure 6, Nov 25, 2014 showed a blockage in the sewer drain

Figure 7, 8 & 9 Dec 4, 2014 showed discharge in water in grass, and blockage still in sewer drain  
Figure 10, 11 & 12, Dec 10, 2014, no discharge, bay is clear and sewer drain is clear

Mecklenburg County employees said they talked with Mr. Fox and Mr. Howard about the overflow and discharge and they all agreed they needed to contact a plumber. They also looked at the manhole and saw the blockage in the sewer. The only line coming into the sewer line at this point was from Carrington Place, and they showed Mr. Fox and Mr. Howard and told them they needed to do something about this before it caused another overflow.

Mecklenburg County said they did receive documentation that the plumber cleaned out the clogged line at the mop basin, but the blockage from the manhole was not done until Dec 9<sup>th</sup>. They went back out to check on December 4<sup>th</sup> and did find another discharge in the basin. They informed Carrington that there was another discharge in the detention basin and the manhole was still blocked. On December 9<sup>th</sup> the blockage was removed. On December 10<sup>th</sup>, Mecklenburg County checked the site again and found the blockage removed and everything clear and flowing.

Mecklenburg County alleged that Carrington Place did not do due diligence in removing the blockage soon enough, and caused additional problems of overflow.

Carrington Place stated that they did not believe they had violated any law or regulation, and believe that they have been good corporate citizens. They said that on 11/25/14 they were originally informed that the discharge was paint. They took samples from the water and sent them to a lab for analyzing. They revealed no sign of paint, wax or wax stripper. They also contacted a plumber who came out and removed sediment in the drain. They also contracted for the sewer to be cleaned and the company came out and cleaned it out on December 9<sup>th</sup>. They provided a plan of correction in the form of a spreadsheet and attached the invoices and receipts from the contracted companies. They also provided proof of various classes that were provided to educate their employees on the difference between sewer drains and storm water drains.

After much discussion and various questions by member of the Environmental Committee so that everyone had a good understanding of the events that had taken place, a motion was made to reduce the original penalty of \$4,000.00 by the expenses already incurred by Carrington Place to resolve the problems. This total cost was approximately \$800, which therefore reduced the penalty to \$3200. The motion was voted on and carried unanimously.

Regarding Air Quality, Mr. Ross reported that there were no violations of air quality in the past month in Matthews. There were 2 projects that houses were to be demolished in which air quality will be checked.

Regarding Physical Agents, there were none.

Under other business, Mr. Miller mentioned that he had attended some sessions on Environmental Education, including information on customer service. He also talked about Solid Waste opening a new compost & recycling facility on Beatties Ford Road, and LUESA moving from Tryon to Wilkinson Boulevard. He also stated that we need to discuss the solid waste contract which will be coming up for renewal or bid soon.

Being that there was no other business, a motion was made at 9:05 pm to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded, and passed. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday April 7, 2015.

Rosalind Cumming  
Secretary