**PARADISE TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**July 21, 2021**

**Paradise Township Municipal Building**

Call to Order

Chair Gary Konrath called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

Members Present

Konrath, Carol Hillestad, Edith Stevens

Minutes of the May 19 meeting were approved. The June meeting was cancelled.

Invasive plants on Township preserves:

Mile-a-Minute weed - this rapidly growing annual vine which spreads by seed has been found at VanBuskirk Preserve. A hiker notified the Township and the Township parks crew has checked the Preserve and removed what they found. Gary will investigate placing a picture and brief info about the weed on the Township website and Savvy Citizen.

Barberry - The Township hired Tom Galucci (Absolutely Lawns) to treat barberry regrowth at Swiftwater Forest Preserve. Some follow-up is needed and the EAC recommends that treatment continue.

Bittersweet – this perennial vine is spreading in the Township, including in Posie’s Park and along Rt 940. This invasive vine wraps itself tightly around trees and shrubs and will eventually kill both. Gary will ask the parks crew to remove bittersweet at the intersection of Keokee Chapel Road and Route 940 (fork near Township building) and check the rest of that park.

Knotweed – Someone should check along Keokee Chapel Road for knotweed on banks of Paradise Creek. It’s too late to start treatment now (although flower heads could be cut and bagged) but knowing where to treat next year would be helpful.

Members shared info about the new connection from Knauff Preserve and Merry Hill trail along Merry Hill Road.

EAC members recommend the BOS appoint Joel Schilling to the vacant position on the EAC since Laura Van Gilder’s resignation.