

Town of North Beach  
Environmental Committee Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, February 6th, 2018  
7 PM

Attendees: Jane Hagen, Guy Stone, Veronica Cristo, Karyn Molines, Jeff Noyes

Agenda and discussion: Main topics discussed include rules and informational signage at the Walton Beach Nature Preserve, and the recommendation to hire a Parks Manager for the town.

Walton Beach Rules Signage

- The team reviewed information from the presentation Karyn did that identified restrictions and allowed activities on Walton. Karyn said that the town should formalize the entirety of the EC's recommendations as an ordinance, and then the posted sign could state the most critical restrictions (such as those for which the police would be called), and reference the ordinance which would cover the details. That way, the police or others could use the sign as reference. Important restrictions to actually go on the sign would include
  - Hours of operation (dawn to dusk?)
  - No fires
  - No fishing or hunting
  - Stay off all dune grasses
- Dog walking was discussed at length. Without enforcement, it's difficult to limit. The primary goals are preventing damage to the restored wetlands and requiring the removal of pet waste. The EC recognized that the tendency in a bay front and remote area like Walton beach would be to let dogs run free, which could result in wetland damage or unrecovered pet waste. The requirement that dogs remain on-leash seems to be a reasonable compromise between not allowing dogs at all, and not having any restriction on dog walking. However, the team agreed that until the plantings are fully grown out, no dogs should be allowed. Perhaps 1-2 years might still be required. The EC feels that if this situation is explained to dog walkers, and that dog walking will eventually be allowed, that a temporary restriction on this activity would be respected.

Walton Beach Informational Signage

- The EC believes that not only does informational signage provide public education about the wetlands, but it also will help with preservation of the area from damage as the public would better understand why the rules exist.
- Karyn suggested that we should be able to get a \$1000 Southern MD Heritage Areas grant with a \$1000 match to fund signs. She will email suggested designs to the team, which Jane can provide to town staff. Photos from Environmental Concern might be useful in the process.

### Parks Manager

- The team reviewed the Calvert County Grade 22 Park Manager job description again in the context of it's use as the goal for a Parks Manager for the town, concluding that it was still a good fit.
- Jeff provided his notes loosely mapped the generic job description from the county to specific areas of responsibility that the PM would have in North Beach. The team reviewed and accepted. (Notes attached to the end of these minutes along with add'l notes for mtg w/the mayor). The notes included the PM having responsibility for all trees public spaces in NB.
- Jane shared anecdotal evidence about trees being cut down recently and how important it was to pay attention to these activities. She reiterated Charlie Poole's and Joan Krell's desire to be on a tree committee that the PM would of course work with. Currently, regulation of some of this activity falls on Rick Crump.
- The EC discussed naming the new position something other than Parks Manager to perhaps better reflect the broad swath of duties not quite in the generic description. Karyn shared that the county considered renaming PM positions, but it was determined that doing so would make it more difficult to find applicants who were already familiar with the name Parks Manager and knew what to expect. "Town Environmentalist" was discussed, but ultimately the Calvert County name seemed to be the best fit.
- Next steps for the PM position were discussed. Jane planned to provide the Grade 22 PM position description to Joanne Hunt to have for budget discussions. She also recommended that the EC discuss the recommendation with the Mayor to determine his level of support for the idea before the EC prepares more detailed support for it. Guy and Jeff said they would meet w/the mayor, and Jane will set up the mtg.
- The EC also believes it would be beneficial to discuss the idea with the waterfront and facilities managers, so that they understand how park-related work would get shifted to the PM that probably wasn't a good fit for the two existing roles anyway. It would also be a good idea to tell them what we were thinking would be the PM's world of work, and ask if they had any suggestions based on what they've had to do in the parks.

### Other Topics

- Jane mentioned that the boardwalk has no room for additional memorial benches, but that one idea from the town council work session was to have individuals sponsor planting areas and have their name put on specific beds. The idea is that each year the sponsor would donate money that would contribute to the Plant the Town effort. Another was to have memorial bricks at Wetlands Overlook park. The EC agreed that this was another issue to which a PM could contribute knowledge.
- Veronica Cristo explained that she wanted to share information about the Environmental Committee with Bay Bash participants (high school students). Jane suggested talking to Dawn about materials that would work for this. Jeff

mentioned some of the Sustainable MD information might help. Karyn suggested telling them about the pet waste stations, and the additional recycling in town.

- Meeting adjourned

Jeffrey Noyes

Notes for Parks Manager Discussion

To: Jeff

Inbox - Jeff's Comcast February 6, 2018 at 2:32 PM



Parks Manager Specific Areas of Responsibility:

Sunrise Garden

Callis Park

Wetlands Overlook Park

Walton Beach Nature Preserve  
Environmental Concern maintenance plan

Tree wells

Planting Areas (all)

Town Hall roof???

All trees/shrubs (grass??) on public land

Events & Programs:

Plant the town: work with Greenstreet Gardens, Garden Club leaders, volunteers

Sustainable MD: main town POC

Tree City: main town POC

Weddings: ensure park is clean and systems functioning

Staffing:

Expectation is that PM is peer of Facilities and Waterfront manager

Will utilize their staffs to accomplish appropriate work

Trash pickup: via Richard

Park systems (lights, fountains, sprinklers, security cameras, playground equipment boardwalks, etc): via Donnie or contractor as appropriate

Planting areas: Donnie's crew as necessary

Workspace:

Public works, visitor's center, town hall?

**Jeff**

Inbox - Jeff's Comcast February 23, 2018 at 3:22 PM



Park Manager Current Issues Notes

To: Jeff

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These are current issues on which a Parks Manager would work

General wildlife management, but specifically:

- Duck feeding problem and related public education

- Horseshoe crab public education

- Fish at Sunrise Garden and herons feeding on them

No lead fishing initiative - how to approach and manager the program

- fishing licenses (possibly)

Playground equipment maintenance and larger project management for replacement

- ADA compliance

- soliciting public input

BG&E Emerald Ash Borer Beetle problem - currently Chesapeake Beach, but us too

State Highways project raising the road & access issues for Walton Beach Nature Preserve

- Also for Walton - signage - both rules, AND public education about the preserve