

Town of North Beach
Environmental Committee Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, January 7th, 2020
7 PM at Town Hall

Attendees: Jane Hagen, Guy Stone, Karyn Molines, Allan Creamer, Lisa Garrett, Jeff Noyes, Matthew Keahon, guest Teresa Zanalotti.

Agenda and discussion: This meeting covered many topics, to include the Tree Canopy Survey results, updates from Lisa Garrett on events, budget, and marketing, and the Sustainable MD 3 year status report.

The November minutes were approved for submission.

Karyn Molines Resigning

- Karyn announced her plans to move out of North Beach in the very near future. She will be submitting her letter of resignation from the Environmental Committee in the coming weeks. Karyn was one of the original members of the EC, and she will truly be missed.
- Karyn passed all of her historical files relating to North Beach to Lisa Garrett.
- She may be able to attend the February meeting, but this one may be her last.
- Jane distributed copies of the original 3 year plan submitted to the Sustainable MD Program, and explained that the update/report was due in April 2020. Veronica Owens, and now Lisa Garrett are assigned to this effort. Jane began to go over some of the information in the plan:
- Jane asked that the team review the current 3 year plan and be ready to discuss at the January 2020 EC meeting. The report needs to include which of the goals in the plan have been successfully completed, and also identify any new goals. This should also highlight goals which need more focus in between now and April

Tree Committee Discussion

- Karyn had two recommendations for tree committee membership: David Tuttle and Tanya Gale, who is a naturalist with the Natural Resources Division. They live on Frederick Ave.
- Jane asked that Lisa have the two prospective tree committee members submit a request to the Mayor to join the committee. She explained that the tree committee hasn't yet met because they currently only have two volunteers. Two additional members would enable the committee to get rolling.

New Environmental Committee Member

- Matthew Keahon introduced himself as a new EC member approved by the mayor. He has worked for both the Forest Service and Fish and Wildlife Service, and is presently a realtor. Lisa facilitated introductions for the group. Matthew added later that he plans to join the tree committee as well.

Tree Canopy Study Results - Lisa Garrett

- Lisa explained that the tree cover within town limits is 28%, impervious surfaces 44%, grass and lawns, 13%, tidal and non-tidal 24%, bays, lakes, rivers, streams 7%.
- She said that even though tree cover is 28%, much of the street trees made up of crepe myrtle, which are non-native species. She said that many of the 275 trees are over 100 years old and have become so large that they need to be taken down.
- Karyn added that part of the driver of for doing the tree survey was to give the tree committee current data on which to begin their work. She also added for the new member and guest that the town has an ordinance which requires a tree committee, and that the tree committee has regulatory authority and the responsibility to review site plans. Within the town organization, the committee essentially supports code enforcement. The committee will also support the Tree City initiative, as well as Sustainable Maryland.
- Tree Committee discussion gave way to a discussion of Walton Beach and the berm, with a review of related projects (to include SHA road raising/plant mitigation/tidal flushing) and Environmental Concern monitoring efforts for the new member and guest.

Other Activities – Lisa Garrett

- John Bacon is heading up an effort with 150 students to do murals at some of the elementary schools near Chesapeake Beach. Lisa will be helping out with the project and plans to make good contacts at this event so that she can hopefully better plan for how a mural could be done at the nature center in NB, possibly with the same team.
- Lisa handed out flyers for her film series that the EC can hand out in a place where they would be visible. Next film is Wonder of the Snowy Owl February 8th at town hall. Lisa was able to get funding from Ducks Unlimited for refreshments for this series.
- Lisa doing naturalist talks at the senior center monthly. Next one is entitled “Put On Your Winter Coat” about how ducks, humans, and other animals handle winter.
- Saving the Chesapeake Bay One Yard at a Time is a program Lisa is doing with the Master Gardeners on March 28th. It is a 2 hour workshop on composting, native planting, and other topics.
- Welcome Back Ospreys in April at the waterfront this year
- Int’l migratory bird day in May
- Fishing Derby on Father’s Day – prizes will be different from last year, not focusing only on fish caught
- Native Plant Sale with Chesapeake Natives June 6 in conjunction with the North Beach House and Garden Tour
- Lisa is teaming with Calvert County to create a birding trail – web page with trails for the best birding (to include NB).

- Lisa's budget request to the town is due soon.
- There has been a slow movement with NB restaurants to move to paper straws and other compostables, partly due to Lisa hosting green programs at their locations.
- She reported that the wall was kicked in at the nature center. Video/pictures was captured of the vandalism.
- Lisa discussed plans to eventually have her office at the nature center, with a re-useable display boards for different activities/events.
- The town would like Lisa to have a table at the Farmer's Market to promote her programs – Lisa requested help from the EC to staff the table.
- Karyn and Lisa discussed better signage for Wetlands Overlook Park, including directional signage leading visitors to the park, and a matching grant that could be used to fund it. Letter of intent due end of January, with final request due in April. Jeff recommended created a parks map for the towns website in downloadable/printable PDF format. It would be inexpensive and useful, particularly for visitors who go to the website first for town info. One challenge is that Eco-Tourism info is not the easiest to find on the town's website. Lisa mentioned Rick Crump is doing a 311 section of the website that might help the issue.

Marketing NB Eco Events

- Teresa discussed how effective it has been to use Facebook and pay small amounts to boost events (\$5 in most cases). But it creates a following and works well for her.
- Lisa plans to meet with Dawn on coming up with a marketing plan, as well as how to make her events more events visible on the town's website. The committee recommended having a "Nearby Nature" clickable link on the town's home page, perhaps in place of where "Weddings" is located, since they are infrequent and private, and Lisa's events are actual town events that anyone can attend. There would always be something new there because Lisa hosts so many events. People would visit the site over and over again for new info.

Sustainable MD Update

- Jeff recommended taking the SM action plan word doc and turning it into a spreadsheet with columns in which current status of each action could be recorded, along, with a column for who is assigned to each action or who provided the update. The update is due in April, so this would be a way to get the status of each issue into a single doc. Jeff said he'd maintain a master document if others email status updates to him. The team agreed and Jeff said he'd provide the spreadsheet with the minutes of this meeting. Allan recommended individuals be assigned each action to ensure all are addressed, just as it was done when the original document was created 3 years ago.

Meeting adjourned

The next Environmental Committee will be Tuesday, February 4th, 2020.

The North Beach Parks Report for December is attached.



North Beach Parks Report

Lisa Bierer-Garrett, Director of Eco-Tourism
Department of Community Conservation



For the month of December 2019

Wetland Overlook Park

- Safety check completed weekly, Bird walk, trail cleanup done biweekly.
- Updated Nature Nook bulletin board and books selection
- Creating Wall Panel at Visitor Center into Nearby Nature Display with DPW.
- Redoing Visitor Center Signage



Callis Park and B&G Club

- Submitted areas for demonstration gardens at park.
- Safety check done biweekly
- Submitted a Beautification Grant for garden areas and Grant for Community Workshops

Sunrise Garden

- Monitor Koi health and population size-, stable currently
- Monitor gardens, Bay wise Garden and trees for health
- Proposed winter bubbler fountain for koi health

Walton's Beach Preserve

- Continue to monitor beach and living shoreline– using path to monitor beach health and do trash pickups. Several rare bird visitors lately to area.

Community Conservation work-

- **Street Tree Inventory with State Foresters-** Completed report and tree canopy estimates done. Overall healthy municipal street trees. Some need replaced.
- Developing an email list through Outreach programming.
- Centennial Trees- and Champion Tree- working on new signage and

planning to rededicate the trees- Spring 2020 with Tree and Environmental Committees.

- Outreach Winter Film Series with Ducks Unlimited as a sponsor. Working to create partnership on waterfowl signage for the Boardwalk if funded and approved. Film Flyer attached.

December 2019 Events

- **Conservation Coffee Talk** -Planning for Winter dates with Sweet Sue's Bakery
- **Senior Program- Winter Waterfowl on the Bay** (12) popular program on Ducks, swans and geese spotted at our waterfront along Chesapeake Bay.
- **Duck Walk on the Boardwalk**- Rain and fog, low attendance, but good duck sightings!
- **Winter Film Series- Duckumentary PBS Nature.** (7) Film, Winter Waterfowl presentation to group by Lisa Garrett, refreshments and giveaways sponsored by Calvert County Ducks Unlimited.
- **Donation**- Check from Calvert County Ducks Unlimited presented to Mayor Benton at December Council Meeting.
- Worked with NBHGC on Poinsettia sale and marched in Holiday Parade.



- **Meetings:** Environmental Committee, Town Council meeting, NBHGC
- Attended **Saving the Chesapeake Bay One Yard at a Time Workshop (3.5 CEU)** presented by MD Master Gardeners & American Chestnut Land Trust
Now working with Master Gardeners to create a similar workshop in March 28, 2020 for Town of North Beach.

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