

Town of North Beach
Environmental Committee Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 4th, 2020
7 PM at Town Hall

Attendees: Jane Hagen, Guy Stone, Karyn Molines, Veronica Cristo, Lisa Garrett, Matthew Keahon, Allan Creamer

Agenda and discussion: This meeting was essentially a status update for Sustainable MD. Lisa Garrett provided an overview of her activities as well.

The January minutes were approved for submission, with a correction to the date in the heading.

Review of Sustainable MD Action Plan

- Jeff prepared and emailed with the last meeting minutes a spreadsheet with the SM Action items listed, with a place for current status. Lisa went over that Phase 1 list and provided current status of each item.
 - 1. Environmental Green Tips: Dawn created and mailed these to all residents.
 - 2. Green Tuesdays: The lunch and learn at Chesapeake's Bounty and conservation coffee programs.
 - 3. Town to replace older vehicles with hybrid, etc: town now has a hybrid vehicle and plans to get an electric truck
 - 4. Evaluate cost of charging station: evaluation was completed, and charging station was installed
 - 5. Promote local growers: closest fit is the Farmer's Market, in addition to the support for Chesapeake's Bounty. Challenge is that NB doesn't have the space for community gardens
 - 6. Hoop Houses/support farming education: no/not met – the right partner to make this program work hasn't been found
 - 7. Promote/encourage Farmer's Market: this effort continues, Stacy is POC.
 - 8. Investigate need for Farmer's Market in winter: Chesapeake's Bounty fulfills this. Russo project plans indoor market as well. This is still being explored.
 - 9. Encourage street art/cohesive branding: EDC working on art banner contest and project. Banners are now on display. There are 26 banner spaces. Gwen Schiada is POC, with Dawn.
 - 10. Encourage municipal support for bike/pedestrian friendly: Lisa working w/Veronica Owens on signage to direct visitors to green spaces in town.
 - 11. Work on ways to protect the bay w/wetlands & plantings: working w/master gardeners and NB House & Garden Club Jean Hatch Garden plantings. Monitoring living shoreline continues as well. Lisa working

- w/state of MD on wetland mitigation efforts. State will plant, and town will do an MOU w/state.
- 12. Work w/NB House & Garden Club on events and promote home stewardship: House Tour this year.
 - 13. Assist Town w/Plant the Town: Stacy is coordinator, Greenstreet does the design w/input from Deborah/NBHGC
 - 14. Create recycling education program: Recycling brochure completed, Earth Day is planned, Dawn & Lisa POCs. Comcast channel 6 can accommodate a slide show. Veronica Owens suggested mini-video for electric car charging station display.
 - 15. Participate in county “special event recycling” program: Jane discussed putting out special recycling containers at farmers market, but it isn’t clear how the FM will evolve – potential for change of day and venue.
 - 16. Support county and state goals towards waste reduction: this is baked into town processes.
 - 17. Continue/promote annual community cleanup program: Karen discussed adding recycling areas to the 2 dumpsters at the event/add dumpsters for specific types of materials (electronics, construction materials, metals, light bulbs, etc) to expand the green concept. She provided Mike Thomas as a POC for those dumpster.
 - Lisa then discussed the Phase 2 Items
 - 1. Hold a yearly Garden & Green event for residents, reduce carbon footprint: House & Garden Tour, Master Gardener education program Save the Bay One House at a Time.
 - 2. Develop home energy certification program for residents to showcase smart goals: no/not addressed
 - 3. Develop program to help homeowners reduce energy intake: Healthy Living program – energy star appliance
 - 4. Continue to support green schools: coordinated for the county through CHESPAX.
 - 5. Pursue grants for green infrastructure: Karen has provided leads for grants, Veronica Owens is working on them. Flood committee working with Environmental Finance Center to get grant to write plan, then apply for larger grant.
 - 6. Protect and promote open spaces for art, water, gardens, etc: Sunrise Garden Park. Pollinator hotel to be added, with pollinator garden. Larry Ringgold is artist/builder.
 - 7. Promote Bay-Wise Gardening, habitats, etc: Master gardener training programs do this. Barn owl boxes.
 - Phase 3 discussion
 - 1. Design streets to incorporate stormwater/bioretenention measures: DPW/Flood committee working on grant for retrofitting these.

Nest Monitoring For Bald Eagles

- Lisa attended training and is getting certified to monitor bald eagle nests.
- While not endangered, bald eagle monitoring is still important.
- New program called NestStory will be used. Part of this effort will be to verify presence of nests already in the database, as well as identifying new nests

Support with Special Events

- Lisa is compiling a list of special events and requested help in putting on some of her events. She provided a list to those in attendance. A review of known events followed.
 - Lisa may bring back the popular campfires on the beach program
 - Lisa discussed making bat-house kits and has a POC to help build the kits. Karen has experience with this and can assist with this effort.
 - Karen showed her bat listening device and offered to share her equipment if her grant comes through. Great educational tool that identifies species it can hear using a phone and sensor.

New Exhibit at Overlook Park

- Lisa talked about her Explore Your Nearby Nature exhibit. It encourages people to use iNaturalist. Karen plans to do a training on iNaturalist which could support Lisa's exhibit & programs.

Maryland Historical Trust Grant Workshop

- Lisa attended and learned techniques for securing progressively larger grants that might be useful for NB.

Meeting adjourned

The next Environmental Committee will be Tuesday, March 3rd, 2020.