

Town of North Beach  
Environmental Committee Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, November 5th, 2019  
7 PM at Town Hall

Attendees: Jane Hagen, Guy Stone, Karyn Molines, Allan Creamer, Lisa Garrett, Jeff Noyes

Agenda and discussion: This meeting included initial discussion the April 2020 submission of an updated NB status to the Sustainable MD program, a very brief discussion of an outreach table for NB to help gather info for various NB programs, and updates on Community Conservation efforts from Lisa Garrett. Plastic bags and night-friendliness were also discussed.

The October minutes were approved for submission with one correction – Lisa was indicated as being in attendance in error.

Sustainable MD Review

- 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 said that Town Hall was originally identified as being LEED certified, but Lisa explained that the original building architect left, and the second architect did not follow up on the certification. Because it is the architect that must pursue the cert, it's unlikely the cert will be obtained.
  - The sustainable work done by Chesapeake's Bounty and now Hook and Vine will be part of the SM report.
  - The leaves vacuumed in town going to Chesapeake's Bounty farms will be a new add to the report
  - Adopting oyster spat/cages and the partnership with Chesapeake Beach, as well as reef ball construction plans will be included.
  - Lisa mentioned adding a video to the electric charging station kiosk will be a project in 2020
- 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.

Changes to Farmers Market Due to Library Construction

- Lisa and Jane mentioned that changes were going to be made to the Farmers Market due to the library construction, but plans were not yet clear.

- Based on the discussion, it was evident that some kind of data collection/survey/information table work was needed to assess the best direction for these efforts. In the context of having an outreach table to gather information on what environmental/community conservation programs the public desired, perhaps these other kinds of issues might be part of the data gathering effort to help the town make better informed decisions on both areas of interest.

#### Community Conservation Report (Lisa Garrett)

- Lisa said she will be attending Sustainable Stormwater Best Management Practice Management class, which is designed for maintenance crew and crew leaders. This will help her better use best management practices for rain gardens in NB particularly in Callis Park initially.
- Lisa will be working with MD SHA to pick locations in the town to propose mitigations of trees and native plants resulting from project by Walton Beach. She has identified 7 areas and is working on the list of native plants. Two of the locations are the riparian area along the creek at Walton beach, and along the fence at Callis park on the north side where there are houses.
- To make a distinction between the two efforts above, Lisa explained that “best management practice” is what projects are called when funded by a municipality or county – these must be maintained for 7-10 years and states can impose fines if this is not or are not working.
- Lisa explained that NB is part of the South Creek Watershed, and she is working on creating a Friends of the South Creek Watershed as part of a larger effort by the American Chestnut Land Trust to create friends of all the local watersheds. Calvert County is hiring a watershed steward (paid position) to train friends’ groups.
- Lisa is holding a second Owl Prowl (following the very popular first one in which an owl was called and flew over the group’s heads) is on November 16<sup>th</sup>.
- The Baltimore Forestry Board is holding a workshop that donors pay to attend. Lisa discussed holding a similar event done by Calvert foresters to raise money for NB environmental programs. Part of this would include drawing in a variety of expert as speakers.
- Karyn suggested that if the workshop met continuing education requirements for environmental professionals, attendance would be increase.
- Lisa is working on doing a Centennial Tree recertification in April in conjunction with an Earth Day (April 22) celebration, with the recertification on April 25<sup>th</sup>. As port of that tree certification, she is asking that the EC support purchasing new tree placards for the trees from the committee’s budget . The current signage is in poor condition or non-existent in many places. She would also like the committee’s support in purchasing an attractive trash can for outside Town Hall, or an attractive butt-hut (like the ones in Ocean City) to encourage not throwing them on the ground.

- She is working on a Keep America Beautiful grant request with Veronica that would fund 4 workshops on composting, recycling, cleanups, and putting in a rain garden. This would be a grant for an intern would do the workshops.
- Another grant she's pursuing is to get rain barrels and compost bins that could be given to residents and would also include videos training people on their usage.
- Lisa wants to start a series of winter wildlife films to include The Snowy Owl and DUCKumentary (with Ducks Unlimited). Hoping to get duck signage sponsored by them for NB.
- In March, Lisa will host the Calvert County Master Gardeners putting on Saving the Chesapeake Bay One Yard at a Time
- In April, Earth Day
- May – Welcome Back Osprey
- June – Native Plant Sale at the NB House & Garden Tour
- December through July - Bald-eagle monitoring program

#### Plastic Bags in NB

- Jane raised the issue of discouraging/prohibiting the use of plastic bags in town. She thought that this might work best to approach with the Economic Development Committee.
- Guy indicated that it shouldn't be terribly difficult to achieve because so few businesses rely on plastic bags or do high volume sales that might make their use desirable. However, restaurants and stores do use them.
- Lisa said that she has a contact who is the head of outreach for Recycling for Calvert County who is a fantastic speaker and will be doing a talk on related topics as part of the Earth Day celebration in NB.

#### Night Sky Friendly Town

- Karyn asked that NB consider taking measures to make the boardwalk more night-sky friendly. From a homeowners point of view, measures can be taken to increase night friendliness as well.
- Karyn and Lisa discussed yellow light vs white light with regard to wildlife, and there are conflicting demands that make it difficult to confidently say one is better than the other.
- Guy mentioned there is a public safety perception that more light is safer. Motion activated lights may be a compromise that could work.
- Lisa may be able to get a speaker from Lights Out Baltimore to provide education on the topic.

Meeting adjourned

The next Environmental Committee will be Tuesday, December 3rd.



## North Beach Parks Report

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



### For the month of October 2019

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#### Wetland Overlook Park



- Safety check completed weekly, Bird walk, trail cleanup done biweekly.
- 30-40 species of birds seen per walk.
- Updated Nature Nook bulletin board and books selection
- Plan to update vandalized wall at Visitor Center into Nearby Nature Display
- **Big Sit Birding Festival and Owl Prowl** held on Columbus Day weekend
- **Owl Prowl was big success- 40 participants, had owl fly over group!**
- **Fall Birding Weekend Big Sit** was rainy and low number of birders (12) but good bird count of **52** species!

#### Callis Park and B&G Club

- Submitted areas for demonstration gardens at park.
- Safety check done biweekly
- Working on 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
- Posted several Instagram and social media of butterfly species at gardens including Hatch Angel Garden.

#### Walton's Beach Preserve

- Had path mowed by DPW to monitor beach, living shoreline and horseshoe crabs – using path to monitor beach health.

#### Community Conservation work-

- Street Tree Inventory with State Foresters- compiling data, some complications
- Developing an email list through Outreach programming.
- Documented the Centennial Tree Project from 2000. Presented talks on the Town Trees to Senior Center and Library.

All trees still standing as of 9.1.19, planning to rededicate the trees- Spring 2020.

- Planning an Outreach event with Ducks Unlimited in the Winter such as Winter Wildlife Films and create partnership on waterfowl signage for the Boardwalk if funded and approved.



- **Conservation Coffee Talk** -Planning for October/November date with Sweet Sue's Bakery
- **Senior Program on Fall Colors** -discussed with a PowerPoint presentation about how and why trees change color in Fall. (15)
- **Library Presentation- What is a Champion Tree? And the Centennial Trees of North Beach project-** (16) Part of a community outreach program at Twin Beaches library

**November 16<sup>th</sup> Owl Prowl and Family Nature Walk Nov. 9 Scheduled**

## Meetings and Trainings

- **Meetings:** Environmental Committee, Town Council meeting
- Met with Calvert Tourism Director Hilary Daily and Calvert Naturalist Gene Groshon about Birding Ecotourism and publicity for County and Town birding hotspots by creating a *Birding Trail* on the web. Working with Calvert IT mapping to create the Birding Trail Interactive page.
- Attended **Saving the Chesapeake Bay One Yard at a Time Workshop (3.5 CEU) presented by MD Master Gardeners & American Chestnut Land Trust**

