

Town of North Beach
Environmental Committee Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 6th, 2020
7 PM via Zoom

Attendees: Jane Hagen, Stacy Milor, Guy Stone, Allan Creamer, Lisa Garrett, Jeff Noyes.

Agenda and discussion: This meeting covered many topics, much of which centered on the Sustainable MD program. Lisa Garrett led a discussion on the Clean Up Green Up grant proposal, as well as providing updates on upcoming Eco Tourism/Community Conservation events.

Mission Statement Review/Approval

- Jane relayed that Dawn requested the EC review the EC mission statement. The committee unanimously reaffirmed that the mission statement is still valid.

County Recycling Pamphlets

- Jane explained that the county recently made available new pamphlets that differ from the recycling that North Beach's recycling vendor does. She plans to investigate the differences so that information can be provided to residents.
- Stacy asked if the issue was about single source recycling, or if it was more about dropping recycling at the local convenience centers. It wasn't clear at this point, so she too would seek some clarification as well.
- Lisa discussed a video that was available from the county that might provide some information to residents, but again the differences between county and town recycling would first need to be better understood.

Rain Barrels

- Lisa did not have any updates on a rain barrel program at this time.

Green Team Goals

- Lisa explained that Dawn has requested an update to the Green Team goals document, specifically what goals have been met between when the document was created in 2017, to now in 2020, as well as creating a new timeline for 2020-2023
- Documentation is required to support those accomplishments: photos, etc. Lisa was not on the Green Team for the first couple years, so she does not have any artifacts from this period.
- Lisa suggested that perhaps once a year the Green Team would meet with other related committees (Flood Committee, Tree Committee, Economic Development) to share information as it relates to the Sustainable MD certification and related documentary proof of goals being pursued/met.
- Jeff asked about the present status of the most recent goals spreadsheet, and Lisa explained that she had begun to populate the future years, but the Sustainable MD people were requesting that the information be made available via online,

and it became clear that there was just too much to do to make a recertification in 2020 viable. Some of the topics/projects that needed updates include the library, plastic straws, Styrofoam, stormwater action plan, electric utility bill and carbon footprint updates.

- Allan explained that he had the BGE statements from this year (2020), and that he needs to compare the data with other info he already has. The data he has was complete for 2013, partial for 2014, and nothing beyond that. He needs additional usage info that he can work with Stacy to get, but it won't be available until the beginning of 2021. Also he needs generation data from the solar array on the public works building. 3 years ago the solar array data was not yet available. It wasn't clear if the generation data was available at all. Lisa said that BGE salespeople seem to have some usage data that they used to claim that NB could save X amount of dollars by switching LED lighting. It was not clear what level of granularity the data has. Allan explained that we have baseline usage data from before the array was installed, and there would be an expected dip in electricity consumption with the array installation, but it isn't clear if we have the data to show that.
- It was clear that updating the carbon footprint info was a tall task, with extensive data gathering and analysis necessary. Lisa offered that the Environmental Finance Center/SM folk may be able to provide an intern to do this work, and Allan was amenable to this.
- Allan said he would look at the 2020 data and set up the spreadsheet so that the data from other years can be input once it is obtained.
- Lisa indicated that some larger towns have town managers that routinely track energy consumption data as part of their job, which causes the EFC to expect that info from smaller towns as well, which is difficult.
- Later in the meeting, there was a discussion of how best to present the SM goals on the town website. On the page with the mission statement, vision statement & action plan, there was a place where SM goals are presented in list form. The discussion of possibly posting the list as a downloadable PDF, but Jeff recommended that since the list was already viewable easily and printable, all that was necessary was to update the text with the newest goals and what was actually accomplished. In other words, the following work needs to be done:
 - 1. Review and update the information currently posted on the town's website at <https://www.northbeachmd.org/green-team/pages/mission-statement-vision-statement-and-action-plan> with current status of each of these initiatives, and
 - 2. Add current and future plans to that same site from Lisa's draft (appended to these minutes).

Tree Committee/Tree City

- Jane relayed that the town now does have a tree committee and asked (Lisa) if NB could now become a Tree City. Lisa said there first needs to be a meeting held with an agenda and minutes, then NB can request to be certified as a Tree City. Lisa said there was another person that wanted to join the tree committee, but that only three people were necessary.

Clean Up Green Up/Keep Maryland Beautiful Grant

- Lisa said that this grant last year will fund the current rain barrel & rain garden workshop. For this year's request, she wants to purchase Butt Huts, which are cigarette butt receptacles that once full, get turned (with the cigarette butts) into park benches. Each bin is \$99 or 6 for 6 for \$500. She was thinking waterfront and Town Hall for locations. Jane mentioned that also by Mexico restaurant would be good as well. Stacy asked Lisa to provide her with the butt hut info.
- Lisa said other green up projects could be added to the grant as well. One project she was considering is a program in which the town would get small, plantable trees from Tree-Mendous Maryland and make them available to residents. Tree-Mendous MD can provide larger (5 gallon) trees for \$25, and 2 gallon for \$12.50.
- Lisa mentioned Plant the Town was not done in 2020, but she hoped that it would happen in 2021.
- Stacy mentioned that additional recycling receptacles (the recycling bag rings or other style) for special events the EC had requested would be a good use for the grant as well.

Bird City and Other Birding

- Lisa expects the town to be certified a Bird City by the end of 2020. The required bird houses with signage, and a bird trail and bird tours were also part of the program.
- She was planning an eventual bird festival, but also a live owl presentation before Halloween. Her friend from Charles County Public Schools Environmental Education Center has 3 owls and will do a Facebook Live presentation at Wetlands Overlook Park.

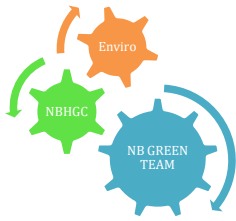
Ambrosia Beetle/Chestnut Oak discussion

- Allan asked Lisa about the ambrosia beetle impacts on chestnut oak trees, specifically one he was trying to save in his own yard.
- Jane recommended that Charlie Poole from the tree committee could perhaps take a look. She will provide Allan with his contact info.
- Lisa would also provide Allan with another contact who could help.

Meeting adjourned

The next Environmental Committee will be Tuesday, December 1st, 2020, as the first Tuesday in November is election day.

Lisa's UPDATE 2020 The Green Team Proposal is attached.



UPDATE 2020 The Green Team Proposal

The Green Team is usually thought of as the Environmental Committee. The 2020 plan will now include the Tree Committee, the Stormwater/Flood Committee and several representatives from the North Beach House and Garden Club when listed as the “Green Team”.

Proposed: We will plan to have an Annual Green Team Meeting Luncheon. The Goal is to discuss past year successes of individual committees. Then we will work on 2021-23 Goals for the entire Green Team. Each year we will add these goals to our Green Team Plan of Action. This will help us maintain our recertification information for Sustainable Maryland.

The 2020-23 Green Team Plan of Action with Suggested Timeline Goals –

Attached: The 2020 Green Team Plan of Action with Suggested Goals - including these suggestions from Lisa Garrett, Liaison for Sustainable MD Recertification, and Head of NB Department of Community Conservation.

2020-2021: Start an Annual Committee meeting w/ Lunch to discuss Annual Green Team

- New Green Team Training perhaps including CB Green Team
- Expand Community Garden Plots
- Prepare a Stormwater Action Plan or secure funding to develop the Plan
- Create a Pollinator patch path/ network among residents
- Certify as a Bird City Maryland
- Create an Annual Earth Day -Green Festival or Fair
- Hold a Native Plant Sale and/or Seminar

2022: Expand Sustainability throughout the Municipality

- Expand Community Garden Plots
- Plan a Tree Trail Walking Trail throughout town with Tree Committee
- Recertify as a Tree City
- Explore certification-National Wildlife Federation Community Habitat
- Expand Annual Earth Day -Green Festival or Fair
- Increase Tree Canopy and Update Tree planting/removal Ordinance for Town

2023: Celebrate Community Habitats

- Certify as a National Wildlife Federation Community Habitat
- Create a Pollinator patch path/ network among residents
- Continue with Spring Plant Sale and Fall Plant Sale in cooperation with NBHGC
- Annual Committee meeting w/ Lunch to discuss Annual Green Team
- Continue documenting events we help support like Buy Local