

Town of North Beach
Environmental Committee Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 1, 2022
7 PM via Zoom

Attendees: Lisa Garrett, Jeff Noyes, Elizabeth Lawton, Guy Stone, Allan Creamer, Sean Mansperger, Herb Wolff, Nyree Weyand

Agenda and discussion: This meeting introduced a new EC member, discussed the NB Green Awards Program, received info about county-level environmental goals, discussed the NB Recycling Program, and the memorial tree planting for Jane Hagen.

New Member Nyree Weyand

- Elizabeth introduced a new EC Committee member, Nyree Weyand.
- Nyree provided an overview of her background – she is a professional engineer, willing to help out wherever needed. Nyree is still learning about each of the committees in town, but sees the need for the committees to work together with a unified front to achieve things. She has been a resident in NB for three years, but in the county since 2002.
- Guy emphasized the need for each committee in town to essentially “stay in their lanes” and refer issues that land on the wrong committee over to the appropriate committee, now that we have several committees that might cross over (tree, stormwater, environmental).
- Nyree plans to attend the next Stormwater Committee meeting to learn more about how she might contribute. Elizabeth mentioned a comprehensive plan related to stormwater management that would be the best way to provide input to this challenging problem as well as a related contract soon to be let.
- Lisa discussed the Watershed Stewards program grant for a demonstration conservation pond at Overlook Park that was recently awarded. Ponding water is a different challenge from that which a rain garden can solve. Lisa is the project lead, working with 3 watershed stewards on the design, to meet the requirements of the Chesapeake Bay Trust.

Green Awards Program Update

- The Green Awards program in North Beach supports sustainability and will contribute as one new element of the Sustainable Maryland re-certification when it comes due again. The Green Awards program should earn a certain number of points towards the re-certification (next time, in 3 years.)
- This program is for NB businesses and residences.
- Guy suggested that Lisa provide Elizabeth with information on the University of MD Extension Sustainable MD program run by the UMD Environmental Finance Center. Lisa suggested that the NB Green Team is really due to be trained again on the Sustainable MD program, and that would be the best way to get current information. Mike Hunninghake is the EFC point of contact. She suggested September or October 2022 for the training, and that we could include the

Chesapeake Beach Green Team as well, for efficiency (to fill a classroom), as before.

- Elizabeth asked to see the most recent submission for the Sustainable MD program for NB. Lisa will provide.
- The Environmental, Tree and Stormwater committees can all be considered part of the North Beach Green Team. The North Beach House & Garden Club also makes contributions.

Calvert County Environmental Commission

- Herb relayed that he had discussions with both the present and future (Jim Levine) heads of the Calvert County Environmental Commission. He provided an overview of key items on which they will be focused in the next year. They will most likely pick two or three from this list:
 - A project on radon
 - Environmental Justice - essential for any climate change initiative
 - Leaf disposal and composting
 - Paint disposal
 - Aerosol spray disposal
 - Water quality – black mold in drinking water
 - Flood water – a problem for many reasons, including that it can bring disease
 - Invasive species
- Herb said they'll be down-selecting to a couple of these in the next month or two. He will report back when new information is available.
- Herb suggested that the EC connect itself to the MD Climate Change Commission to better understand how we might apply some of their ideas to NB, specifically with regard to water pollution and runoff.
- Later (not related to above), Herb mentioned that based on the loss of several trees, he is focusing on shrubs as they are less susceptible to damage.

Recycling Program Update

- Elizabeth shared the results of a meeting she had with Stacy, Dawn & Lisa:
 - The present educational flyer does not seem to be effective – we need to convey to residents *why* we recycle.
 - The recycling campaign will be added to the Town Council agenda so that the problem and potential solutions could be discussed.
 - Feedback from the recycling contractor doesn't get back to residents, and this is necessary to change the behavior of residents.
- Elizabeth said Veronica Cristo has some good ideas to improve the program.
- Lisa added that most NB restaurants aren't using Styrofoam takeout containers, which is a good thing, but they've switched to hard plastic containers, which is hard to recycle. She believes compostable containers would be better, so will research and report back

Earth Day Events

- Earth Day is April 22. NB celebration is April 23. There will be a native plant sale run by the NB House & Garden Club. Lisa would like the EC to do some kind of recycling presentation for this celebration.

Arbor Day/Memorial for Jane Hagen

- Arbor Day is April 29. Tremendous MD sent out their list of trees that are available. The Tree Committee will be discussing at their next meeting the planting of small trees around town (not related to the memorial tree for Jane Hagen.)
- Jeff explained that he plans to provide an update to the Hagen family based on the outcome of this EC meeting.
- Lisa reached out to Ray Greenstreet to get a quote for the same Red Bud that Jane recently planted in her own yard – the cultivar with 3 different colored leaves. No response back as of now (but since this EC meeting the quote was received.) The location of the planting is also known.
- Summary: Location, near entrance of NB Senior Center, Date: around Arbor Day, Plaque: Stacy will provide info, Funding: Hagen Family to pay for tree and plaque, and provide inscription, Tree: 8-9 ft Red Bud
- Post meeting – Jeff provided update to John Hagen, who will draft inscription for plaque before mid-February.

Other Upcoming Events

- Feb 5 – Animal Weather Predictors Hike (Wetlands Overlook Park, weather dependent).
- Feb 12 -Campfire from 1-3pm at Overlook Park, with Valentines Day animal trivia, and marshmallow roasting. Help is welcome.
- Lisa said Earth Day will be celebrated at Overlook Park on April 23, 2022. She would like EC members to participate at a table and talk about recycling.

EC Meetings In Person

- Elizabeth will look into the team meeting in person instead of Zoom. She will research Town Hall and possibly other venues to meet while respecting 6ft social distancing protocols.

Meeting adjourned

The next Environmental Committee meeting will be March 1st, 2022