



Town of North Beach
Environmental Committee Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, January 4, 2022
7 PM via Zoom

Attendees: Lisa Garrett, Jeff Noyes, Elizabeth Lawton, Allan Creamer, Sean Mansperger, Herb Wolff, Dawn Richardson

Agenda and discussion: This meeting focused on reducing NB recycling stream contamination, NB Health and Wellness Committee, and the memorial tree planting for Jane Hagen.

North Beach Recycling Program

- Elizabeth relayed the mayor's concern regarding the need to educate NB residents on the impacts of not recycling properly on the cost of trash pickup. There is a clear need to educate the public on what can and cannot be recycled.
- Jeff asked what, specifically, are residents doing wrong that we are trying to correct, relating this problem to the "what isn't flushable" campaign the town has done. Dawn explained the chart describing the "yes" and "no" recycle chart available to residents. Elizabeth added that essentially residents were treating the Wednesday recycle pickup like just another trash pickup day, including many non-recyclables in the bins.
- Elizabeth said that eventually the town will be charged for this behavior as contaminated recycling must be sent to the landfill. The trash contract comes up for bid in another year, so there is a window of opportunity to make changes.
- Allan raised the issue of Air BNBs, stating that guests of these don't know the rules and so are putting the wrong items in the bins. Elizabeth said this was essentially a matter of educating the owners and relaying proper information to guests. Herb raised the issue of follow-up – how can the BNB owners regulate the behavior of guests? Elizabeth said that the Air BNB rating system, which goes both ways, should take care of this.
- Jeff suggested that maybe some residents should be asked NOT to participate in the recycle program, that it would be better to put some recycles in the trash rather than pollute the recycles with trash. He added that some kind of enforcement or random checking of recycle bin contents might be necessary for a successful program. Allan concurred that there was absolutely a need to determine who is not recycling correctly to make the program work. Elizabeth said that the town was, in fact getting that kind of feedback from the contractor. Allan added that it is important to teach residents on a routine basis WHY we recycle, to improve behavior.
- Elizabeth said she would go back to NB staff and discuss further. She was also considering how to tackle the issue on the next trash collection contract.

North Beach Health and Wellness Committee

- Elizabeth attended Calvert County Parks and Rec environmental meetings in early 2021, and had some information about their planning document that may

relate to NB EC future efforts. These future efforts may be a good fit for (NB EC member) Veronica Cristo, whose passion is primarily agriculture. Alternatively, she might be involved with the Health and Wellness committee as Chesapeake's Bounty work schedule allows.

- Background on the Health and Wellness Committee: NB passed a resolution in the beginning of 2020 about the health and well-being of the town, at the time this related to the Healthy Eating Active Living state grant the town wanted to pursue. The committee was formed, but then Covid stalled its startup.
- Efforts are being made to revive the committee, aided by a new resident with extensive background in public health as the chair. The town resolution is being redrafted to support a broader approach to public health that would enable the town to pursue related grants.
- Once redrafted, with committee re-established, there will be a focus on issues that are directly impacting NB, such as mental health, diabetes prevention, older adult challenges, families and children, NB walkability, Covid protocols in public spaces.

Memorial for Jane Hagen

- Elizabeth spoke with Ed Sullivan, the Department of Aging rep who oversees the NB Senior Center. Naming a room in the Senior Center after Jane will very likely not be possible, but planting a tree outside the Senior Center still does seem viable.
- Ed Sullivan will work on a list of tree species that would be acceptable on the Senior Center grounds, from which a tree will be selected.
- Mayor Benton said in conversation with Elizabeth that location-wise, there was a tree that was lost on the Senior Center property a while back – the replacement/memorial tree could go in that location.
- Jeff re-iterated that the Hagen family would be happy regardless of what species was selected, and that they were willing to cover the cost of the memorial.
- The committee will work on tree selection once the short list is received from Ed Sullivan at the Department of Aging.

Earth Day Event at Overlook Park

- 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.

Meeting adjourned

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