

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

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

Agenda and discussion: This meeting was mainly the EC working with the new Eco-tourism director on budgeting and events/activities planning support for the remainder of 2019 and extending into 2020.

Walton Beach Signage Project Refresh

- Lisa plans to take the Walton Beach signage project for action, but needs the most recent information/status from the EC to carry the work forward. There were two parts to the signage: rules, and interpretive.
- Karyn was able to locate a rough draft of the interpretive signage and forwarded via email. Jane indicated that the rules document (in final, EC-edited form) had been sent to Joanne a long time ago, but that she also still has it. The team recommended Lisa wait to pursue purchase of signage until Veronica Owens secured grant money, but that she could do the design work to prepare for when funding is available. Lisa felt that the signage could be part of the resiliency grant for which Veronica has already applied. Lisa will follow up w/Veronica.
- Karyn said the rules signs should be funded directly by the town, reasoning that rules signs are already on display in many locations and Walton Beach shouldn't be an exception waiting for grant money.
- The team discussed that rules signage won't do anything without enforcement, but didn't draw specific conclusions about how that enforcement will take place, whether it would be beach patrol, code enforcement or some combination.

Styrofoam Ban Passed in Annapolis

- Jane announced that MD passed a ban on Styrofoam usage in MD that will become effective in 2020. But vendors are allowed to use Styrofoam until their existing stocks have run out.

New Recycling Guidance Needed for NB Residents

- Jane relayed that she had a meeting w/Dawn to ensure that guidance to NB residents about what materials are recyclable was accurate. Dawn spoke w/Southern MD Recycling and obtained a list of recyclable materials from them, which is not only different from the list the county publishes, but also appears to be from the District of Columbia. So Dawn plans to create new guidance once she has ensured the list is accurate based on where NB recyclables are actually taken for processing.

Still a Need for More Recycle Bins/Less Plastic Around Town

- Lisa relayed that Marlene (owner of Lighthouse Market & Signs) actually made her own recycle bin because there was so much recyclable trash (mostly plastic cups) left around on Farmer's Market nights. This sparked discussion of the groundwork and recommendations the EC did on this topic last year. Karyn said that the plan had been to revisit the topic after the additional trash cans had been in place for a while after it was more clear where more recycle bins would be most useful. Allan said that he and Bob Hellyer worked on those recommendations, and he agreed to retrieve the data for a fresh look. Karyn said we (the EC) last year based recycle bin recommendations on the data from Richard describing the number of times each existing trash can was emptied.
- Guy discussed the requirement for vendor's to bring their own trash/recycle sufficient to collect trash generated from the product they sell. FM vendor's don't appear to be compliant with this requirement. Karyn asked who is responsible for ensuring vendor's are in compliance with those rules, indicating the EC should perhaps do a deeper dive on the issue. Jane thought it was the Events Committee. Karyn suggested a request from the EC to the Events Committee politely requesting they re-evaluate whether the food and drink vendors are providing adequate trash/recycling for what they are generating. Jane agreed to meet with/discuss the issue with the Events Committee. There is a contract vendor's must sign, and that will be part of the discussion.
- Lisa discussed the idea of requiring vendors to use compostable/paper cups, possibly provided by the town. The EC felt that this would be hard to implement once the FM season started.

Community Conservation/Eco-Tourism Report

- Lisa Garrett provided copies of her weekly park report detailing work completed at the parks
 - Safety checks in wetlands overlook park to ensure trees are safe to be under
 - Met w/Jim Fowler (Garner Landscaping) about invasive Tree of Heaven growing by the boardwalk. He wrote up a request to have the tree removed in using the proper process.
 - Met at Overlook Park to do iNaturalist observations (more than 100) for the City Nature Challenge lead by Karyn.
 - Met w/Joy Hill of NB Boys and Girls Club at Callis Park. Janet Sefton w/UMD extension office to do programs w/kids there. She does cooking programs and wants to do a kitchen garden there. The extension office wants fund a garden for this purchase. Karyn relayed that there is a CETY program that can fund projects like this.
 - Sunrise Garden – did Koi counts to investigate claims that the osprey are eating the Koi. However, someone may have “donated” more fish and this may have skewed the data.
 - Lisa is working on a pond cleaning contract for the Koi pond to be done annually.

- Made Welcome Back Osprey event banners. Janie Suss will be the guest speaker for this event. She'll also do a book signing.
- Cleaned up 150 lbs of debris from Walton Beach with 5 Northern HS JROTC volunteers. Most interesting trash was an EZ Pass. Hundreds of shotgun shells were also found. As a side observation, she said they saw roughly 15 horseshoe crabs molts, so the crabs are already present at Walton.
- Ordered a write-on board for the Nature Nook at Overlook Park.
- Talked to staff about the feed-the-fish dispenser but there was limited support for the idea. This idea will be revisited again as a potential way to fund support for the Koi pond.
- Took pics of NB Garden Club planting in the garden formerly known as the Hatch Garden. Jane discussed that the garden will likely be renamed Jean's Garden
- Lisa plans to put a butterfly/pollinator garden at Wetlands Overlook Park if funding comes through.
- Lisa is still trying to find more information on maintenance of the living shoreline
- She plans to do horseshoe crab observations with Bob Boxwell. This can be done in iNaturalist. Lisa will train the waterfront staff to use iNaturalist for this purpose as the observations automatically go the Calvert County Horseshoe Crab Study. She also will make a flyer to guide others who wish to participate in doing proper observations.
- Allan asked about the netting over the rocks – the EC has opposed to these nets as the crabs get stuck in them as well. He explained how he had obtained special permission from waterfront staff and did go out and rescue many crabs one year.
- Lisa wants to plan a kayak regatta out of the waterfront. Jeff said he'd help plan the event, and relayed his observation that many people do in fact have plastic kayaks in their yards, but don't seem to launch them at the beach, so the potential is there to get good local participation. Karyn talked about the water trail brochure and how it's purpose was to attract kayakers.
- Lisa is doing a fishing derby the day before Father's Day in NB. Looking for volunteers to help. She wanted to offer fishermen barbless hooks, but Guy recommended not providing any equipment to avoid liability for the town.
- Conference call with Jane and Mike Hunninghake. Berlin did a stormwater study and has recommendations on how to be a studied town and improve NB's resiliency. Mayor Benton will be talking to their mayor on these efforts.
- Lisa and Karyn will meet w/Brian Stupac to discuss doing a tree canopy study that may lead to some tree maintenance and tree replacement. Jane mentioned that some NB residents are interested in trees and a tree committee, including an arborist (Charlie Poole). Karyn verified Lisa has her archive of tree committee info.

- Lisa displayed some signs she will use for Eco-events in NB: a sponsored by NB Department of Community Conservation sign, and a Welcome Back Osprey sign – the committee loved both.
- Veronica has offered Chesapeake's Bounty as a location to Lisa to do Healthy Planet Happy Hour talks.

Meeting adjourned