

Town of North Beach
Environmental Committee Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 1st, 2019
7 PM at Town Hall

Attendees: Jane Hagen, Guy Stone, Karyn Molines, Allan Creamer

Guests: Jay Loveless, member of the NB flood committee, Linda Wiley (interested in the planned waterfront construction & additional people that it might bring to NB as an environmental issue).

Agenda and discussion: This meeting touched on leaf recycling, farmers market recycling bag holders, osprey and tree cutting, and waterfront construction as an environmental issue.

The September minutes were approved for submission.

Chesapeake's Bounty to Take NB Leaves

- Jane was pleased to pass that Veronica/Chesapeake's Bounty will be taking all the leaves that NB vacuums up in its leaf vac for composting and farm use. This not only contributes to NB's sustainable MD programs but redirects all of this material out of the waste stream to helps farming in Calvert County.

New Recycling Bag Holders/Rings for Farmers Market

- Jane requested a status on the procurement of subject holders from Stacy; she'll report back at the next meeting.

Osprey Nesting in Trees Being Felled

- There was a lengthy discuss about a tree with osprey living in it near Allan's house that was taken down too early in the annual osprey lifecycle. The team believes this would be an issue for the tree committee to handle in the future. Jane said the Tree Committee was seeking a third member, and that Bob Hellyer may have a lead on a candidate. Karyn suggested that the best approach may be to build more platforms for the Osprey, as nests that are in trees have a much higher predation rate from racoons that those on platforms. She said that someone from NB should contact her office for more information on how to get the platforms installed. BG&E will put them in if Osprey are near their equipment.

Waterfront Construction Discussion

- Linda Wiley asked about the environmental impact of the planned library and other construction on the NB waterfront. Essentially, it was explained to her the the library would reduce the potential environment impact vs other types of construction, and that state laws require that runoff be managed on-site. Karyn

recommended that Linda talk to the planning commission as perhaps a better point of contact within the town's organization.

- Linda asked if the EC is able to influence/request that new construction be renewable/sustainable. Karyn said that the committee can suggest or recommend, but that is the extent of its influence, but also that Linda could also make that request herself to the town council at a public meeting.

Meeting adjourned

The next Environmental Committee will be Tuesday, November 5th.



North Beach Parks Report

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



For the month of September 2019

Wetland Overlook Park



- Safety check completed weekly
- Updated Nature Nook bulletin board
- Nature Nook is being used by visitors; But some vandalism done to wall and door. Discussed with Richard Ball
- Bird walk, trail cleanup done biweekly. 30-40 species of birds seen per walk. Using I Naturalist app to record plant and insect species
- Promoting the **Big Sit Birding Festival and Owl Prowl** that will be Columbus Day weekend with flyers, email blast and other media.
- Put up signage advertising the **Fall Birding Weekend** at waterfront and at park on gate.

Callis Park and B&G Club

- Scoped out areas for demonstration gardens at park.
- Safety check done biweekly
- Working on a Beautification Grant for garden areas



Sunrise Garden

- Monitor Koi health and population size-, stable currently
- Monitor gardens, Baywise Garden and trees for health
- Plan to meet with Garner landscaping about future plantings.
- Posted several Instagram and social media of gardens, butterfly species at gardens



Walton's Beach Preserve

- Had path mowed by DPW to monitor beach, living shoreline and horseshoe crabs – using path to monitor beach health.
- Doing plant, bird and insect surveys at Walton's Beach using I Naturalist App.

Community Conservation work-

- Worked on Street Tree Inventory with State Foresters- compiling data now
- Developing an email list through Outreach programming.
- Oyster Project due to start Sept 7 **cancelled** due to lack of oyster spat this year from DNR. We will plan to set up a reef ball workshop in the Fall.
- Documenting the Centennial Tree Project from 2000.

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 and partnership on waterfowl signage for the Boardwalk if funded and approved.



September 2019 Events

- **Lunch & Learn** at Chesapeake's Bounty -MIGRATION Presentation. (cancelled)
- **Healthy Planet Happy Hour** -planning to host a Happy Hour at Hook & Vine in October
- **Conservation Coffee Talk** -planning for October date with Sweet Sue's Bakery
- **Senior Program - Migration Celebration** -discussed with a PowerPoint why birds migrate and what other creatures migrate such as dragonflies and monarchs (7)
- **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



Meetings and Trainings

- **Meetings:** Environmental Committee, Town Council meeting
- Met with Calvert Tourism Director Hilary Daily and CNR Naturalist Gene Gershon about Birding Ecotourism and publicity for County and Town birding hotspots by creating a *Birding Trail* on the web.
- Submitted Big Sit (Birding Weekend) Event to State of MD Eco-Tourism page.
- Attended **Invasive Plant Species Training workshop (3.5 CEU) presented by MD Master Gardeners and Maryland Extension Office**

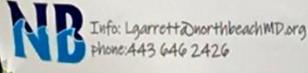


North Beach Fall Birding Weekend



Meet at Wetlands Overlook Park
4030 11th St & Dayton Ave

- **Saturday October 12 at 7pm**
- **OWL PROWL Night Hike**
- Bring a flashlight, walking shoes and dress for the weather. No strollers.
- We will listen for owls on the woodland trail.
- **Sunday October 13, 7am-3 pm**
- **The BIG SIT Birding Day**
- Join us for a tailgating party for birds! All birders welcomed!
- Bring binoculars, chairs and snacks.



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