

Calvert County Environmental Commission

Meeting Minutes – January 27, 2020

Members Present: Jane Dodds, Carys Mitchelmore, Ron Klauda, Jim Levin, Autumn Phillips-Lewis, Mike O'Donnell, Patty Long-Bradley, Craig Simmons, Chris Roettgen

Members Absent: Shelby Cross

Staff: Will Hager; Scarlett Oller; Mary Beth Cook

Guests/Liaisons: Sheila Stevens, CCPS Liason; one member of the public;

- I. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm.
- II. **Guest Speaker Program:** Mary Beth Cook was introduced as the new Director of Planning and Zoning. Director Cook discussed with the Commission their role in the upcoming months during the development of the updating the town center master plans.
- III. **Approval of Agenda:** As Commissioner Mitchelmore needed to leave early, she suggested moving item VII.d to VII.a. Commissioner Phillips-Lewis motioned to make the change. Commissioner Long-Bradley seconded the motion. Commissioner Levin motioned to finalize and approve the change. Commissioner Long-Bradley seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
- IV. **Approval of Minutes:** The Commission discussed moving the first sentence of VII.f.2 in the December 2019 minutes to be the second sentence of VII.f.1. The Commission discussed clarifying the last sentence of VII.f.3 to read that Commissioner Levin suggested finding a speaker about the management of the freshwater marsh next to Cove Point, not about freshwater beach erosion.

Commissioner Long-Bradley motioned to approve the minutes as amended. Commissioner Mitchelmore seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

V. Old Business:

- a. Radon Letter/Ordinance – Will Hager reported that County Administrator Willis had not yet received a response to the Environmental Commission's proposal.
- b. Dominion Tour — Will Hager reported that the Commission's availability dates had been forwarded to CMR. Mary Beth Cook said she would coordinate with CMR to arrange a tour date.
- c. 2019 Report to BOCC — Commissioners Klauda and Mitchelmore will draft the report for the Commission to approve at the February 2020 meeting.

- d. Review of Action Items from 12/16/2019 Meeting – Commissioner Dodds asked for volunteers to staff the STEM expo table. Commissioner Klauda asked the commission to submit their expected expenditures for the upcoming year. Commissioner Roettgen reported he would be leaving the Commission in approximately May and asked for volunteers for the Sustainability subcommittee. Commissioner Levin volunteered for the Sustainability subcommittee.
- e. Membership – Commissioner Simmons announced he will resign at the end of March. Commissioner Roettgen will likely have to resign in May as he will be moving out of the state. Commissioner Klauda suggested the commission buy an appreciation plaque for former commissioner Holly Budd out of their personal funds. Commissioner Mitchelmore motioned to buy this plaque, Commissioner Long-Bradley seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

VI. Sub-Committee Reports:

- a. FAQs – Commissioner Klauda is processing Planning and Zoning’s comments on the Land FAQs. Commissioner Long-Bradley suggested generalizing the “Recycling” FAQs onto “Sustainability” FAQs to avoid duplicating the work of the Solid Waste division.
- b. Public Education/Outreach – Commissioner Mitchelmore suggested purchasing another panel for presenting posters at future events, including the 2/22 Expo. Scarlett Oller agreed to look into purchasing another board and to lend the commission easels for 2/22.
- c. Public Guest Speaker Program – Ben Hance, the speaker from the Sierra Club scheduled for 2/24, will be replaced by Thomas Brewer of the same organization. Chris Phipps, the director of Anne Arundel County’s Department of Public Works, will speak in June. James Ritter with the Calvert County Department of Public Works will speak on the subject of wastewater treatment in Calvert County at an unspecified date. It was noted at a previous meeting, Commissioner Cross requested a speaker about meadows. Commissioner Roettgen will ask a colleague to speak about reducing pesticide use. Commissioner Levin requested a speaker to talk about the marsh near Cove Point.
- d. Sustainability – Commissioner Long-Bradley motioned to add Commissioner Levin to the sustainability subcommittee. Commissioner Simmons seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

VII. New Business:

- a. Election of New Chair and Vice Chair – Commissioner Mitchelmore nominated Commissioner Klauda as Chair. Commissioner Long-Bradley seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Phillips-Lewis nominated Commissioner O’Donnell as Vice Chair. Commissioner Roettgen seconded but Commissioner O’Donnell turned down the nomination. Commissioner Klauda nominated Commissioner Mitchelmore as Vice Chair. Commissioner Simmons seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

- b. Pump for the Bay Contest Drawing – Winners were drawn at random for the Pump for the Bay contest. Scarlett Oller agreed to coordinate with Communications and Media Relations to publish a press release; to post the contest results to the website; and to send letters and prizes as applicable to all participants.
- c. EC Website Changes – The commission discussed the new website format and suggested several changes, including adding a Presentations subpage. Scarlett Oller agreed to make the changes.
- d. Map Amendment MA#19-03 and Text Amendment TA#19-05 – Mary Beth Cook summarized the amendments. The commission decided there were no environmental issues involved in either proposed amendment. Commissioner Klauda agreed to send an official email stating the commission had no comments.
- e. Schedule – After reviewing the year’s draft schedule, the commission agreed to move December’s meeting to December 14, 2020 and to move November’s meeting to November 23, 2020. Commissioner Phillips-Lewis motioned to approve the schedule as amended. Commissioner Long-Bradley seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
- f. General Announcements – Will Hager and Scarlett Oller reminded the commission to file their financial disclosure forms in a timely fashion. Scarlett Oller discussed the website’s traffic between 6/18/19 and 12/18/19. Commissioner Simmons announced he would be leaving the commission effective 3/30/20 due to scheduling conflicts. Commissioner Phillips-Lewis suggested all interested members enroll in Master Naturalist classes before they fill to capacity.
- g. Upcoming Events – The next meeting will be held on February 24, 2020. Commissioner Klauda reported an art exhibit about water would be hosted at the Prince Frederick Library until 3/7/20. Commissioner O’Donnell reported the Maryland General Assembly would discuss environmental-related bills at their 1/29/20 session. The commission discussed and agreed to sponsor a \$100 prize for an environmental-related project at the upcoming science fair and Director Mary Beth Cook approved. Commissioner Simmons motioned to sponsor the prize, Commissioner Dodds seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Dodds agreed to speak with a colleague involved in the science fair about sending a judge from the commission.

VIII. Public Comment:

- a. There were no public comments.

IX. Adjournment:

- a. Commissioner Long-Bradley motioned to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Simmons seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:13 pm.