

Calvert County Environmental Commission

Meeting Minutes – February 24, 2020

Members Present: Jane Dodds, Carys Mitchelmore, Ron Klauda, Jim Levin, Autumn Phillips-Lewis, Mike O'Donnell, Patty Long-Bradley, Shelby Cross, Andy Rogers, Christopher Roettgen

Members Absent: Craig Simmons

Staff: Will Hager; Scarlett Oller

Guests/Liaisons: Sheila Stevens, CCPS Liaison; John Norris, County Attorney; Lili Sheeline

- I. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm.
- II. **Guest Speaker Program:** Thomas Brewer from the Southern Maryland Sierra Club gave a presentation titled "Southern Maryland Sierra Club: Goals, Activities, and Opportunities for Collaboration". Mr. Brewer talked about the desire to host a climate forum and plans to plant trees in several parks in Calvert County and discussed legislative and policy objectives of the Southern Maryland Sierra Club.
- III. **Approval of Agenda:** Commissioner Long-Bradley motioned to approve the agenda. Commissioner Levin seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.
- IV. **Approval of Minutes:** Commissioner Levin motioned to approve the minutes. Commissioner Long-Bradley seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.
- V. **Old Business:**
 - a. Radon Letter/Ordinance – County Attorney John Norris gave a presentation concerning radon, current laws, and the legislative process. He advised that if the Environmental Commission is interested in pursuing a radon testing ordinance that they work with Planning & Zoning on a legislative proposal to submit to the BOCC when legislative proposals from the departments are reviewed in August. He also advised that the Environmental Commission might consider reaching out to the real estate community to gauge interest in such a proposal.
 - b. Dominion Tour — Will Hager reported that a tour of Dominion's facilities for Environmental Commission members had been scheduled for March 18th.
 - c. 2019 Report to BOCC — The annual report was discussed and it was agreed that that the report would consist of two pages, a memo with an attachment, and not include a power point presentation.

- d. Review of Action Items from 1/27/2020 Meeting – The letter to potential sponsors to request prizes for the Pump-for-the-Bay contest was discussed and all members were encouraged to send the letter to potential sponsors.

VI. Sub-Committee Reports:

- a. FAQs — Commissioner Cross discussed issues with establishing FAQ's on injured wildlife and agreed to work towards finalizing a FAQs trifold pamphlet and flier. Commissioner O'Donnell discussed issues with recycling and research he had done on the topic.
- b. Public Education/Outreach — Commissioner Dodds agreed to update the Pump-for-the-Bay brochure. Prizes to distribute at public outreach events were discussed. It was suggested that paper straws are not well received by the public and erasers are not environmentally sound. Cheap non-plastic pens and candy were suggested as potential prizes to look into. Potentially purchasing a new and larger spinning wheel for the environmental quiz was discussed. Prizes that the Environmental Commission could award to County Envirothon teams were discussed and Sheila Stevens agreed to pass along the names and email addresses of people the Sub-Committee could contact to coordinate with on this task.
- c. Public Guest Speaker Program — Commissioner Klauda reiterated that the subcommittee will continue to contact potential guest speakers and invite them to speak at Environmental Commission meetings. Commissioner Phillips-Lewis will invite a speaker to educate the commission on the topic of meadows. Commissioner Mitchelmore will invite a speaker to discuss the Cove Point Marsh.
- d. Sustainability — Commissioner Roettgen said there was no progress to report this month. With Commissioner Roettgen's impending resignation from the Environmental Commission in mind, Commissioner Klauda nominated Commissioner Levin to become the new chair of the Sustainability Sub-Committee which Commissioner Levin accepted and the sub-committee voted on in support.

VII. New Business:

- a. General Announcements — It was announced that the next public meeting on the Prince Frederick Town Center Master Plan will be held at the College of Southern Maryland on March 2nd.
- b. Upcoming Events — The next Environmental Commission meeting is scheduled for March 30th.

VIII. Public Comment:

- a. One member of the public, Lili Sheeline, attended the meeting but left before the time for Public Comment was reached on the agenda.

IX. Adjournment:

- a. Commissioner Long-Bradley motioned to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner O'Donnell seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:23 pm.