

Held on-line and by phone
Meeting ID: meet.google.com/bdy-hyyx-tbk
Dial in number (US) [+1 219-379-3430](tel:+12193793430)
PIN: 267 210 021#

May 14, 2020
7pm-9pm

Attendees

Ann Strozyk	Environmental Sustainability Board (ESB)
Chein-Chi Chang	Resident
Olivia Farrow	ESB
Katherine (Kat) Fisher	Exeter Associates
Kevin Porter	Exeter Associates
Kimberlee Drake	CA Climate Change Committee
Georgia Eacker	Resident
Christine Conn	ESB
Nancy McAllister	ESB
Mark Southerland	Resident
Kelly Hensing	ESB
John Dove	ESB
Brooke Abercrombie	ESB
Josh Feldmark	Office of Community Sustainability (OCS)
Larry Liebesman	ESB
Amber Butler	ESB
Matt Hoover	OCS

Minutes

7:02 PM – Olivia Farrow began the meeting.

1.) Renewable Energy Siting in MD: Exeter Associates – Katherine (Kat) Fisher and Kevin Porter

Kat Fisher reviewed the SmartDG+ tool. It is a free online tool that anyone can use to locate promising areas for wind and solar projects in Maryland. The tool is sponsored by the Maryland Energy Association (MEA) and the Maryland Power Plant Research Program (PPRP). You can locate the tool [here](#). *It was advised that the tool is still being updated, so the website may change. You can type in MD DNR SmartDG+ in a google search to locate the website if the link doesn't work.*

2.) Meeting Minutes Vote – May 14, 2020 – Vote

Christine Conn motioned to approve, and Amber Butler seconded the motion. All members in attendance voted to approve the minutes.

3.) New Chair for the Environmental Sustainability Board– Vote

Olivia Farrow recommended Christine Conn as the new chair and Ann Strozyk to remain as co-chair of the Board. There were no other recommendations. Olivia asked the Board if there were any objections to the two nominations and there were none. All members in attendance approved Christine Conn as the new chair and approved Ann Strozyk to remain as the co-chair.

4.) Director's Report – Office of Community Sustainability: Josh Feldmark

Josh Feldmark advised that the office, on behalf of the administration, brought the recommendation for the adjustments of the Watershed Protection fee to the County Council. As a result of Councilwoman Jung and Councilwoman Walsh indicating a strong disagreement with the proposed adjustments, the proposed capital stormwater budget was cut dramatically, including almost no new capital expenditures this coming fiscal year.

He has been attending the budget work session and there are likely several key environmental projects and programs that are at risk for being cut in the process.

Josh thanked Georgia Eacker and Chein-Chi Chang for their service to the Board. He advised that they are two of the original members of the board. Chein-Chi stated, it was an honor to serve on the ESB. Georgia said that she learned a lot while serving on the board and enjoyed the experience.

5.) Updates/announcements

Larry Liebesman, the newest Board member, introduced himself and said he is excited to join the board.

Resiliency Work Group Committee: Advised they are looking at and reviewing the needs for Howard County.

Solar Task Force update: The public testimony meeting is going to take place on 5/28/20. July is still the target date to have their report completed. The task force is looking at all aspects of solar and not just solar on agricultural properties.

Green Apple Award: Deborah Robbins of Guilford Elementary and Jessica Kohout of Reservoir High School were presented the awards this week. Green Apple Award [info](#).

The Howard County Students have released their Watershed Report Card. ([Link](#))

James Zoller, from the Office of Community Sustainability that runs the Roving Radish, has been assisting the Howard County Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD) with food insecurities.

Ann Strozyk received the Region 3 Presidential Innovation Award for Environmental Educators from the EPA in partnership with the White House Council on Environmental Quality.

Bill Mahoney, from Office of Community of Sustainability, presented the Green Infrastructure Network (GIN) to Leadership Howard County and will soon present to HCPSS students through an extracurricular learning seminar series run by the Howard County Conservancy

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) science fleet has been grounded for months, putting back timelines on atmospheric, climate change, mapping, fisheries and ecosystem studies.

Christine Conn advised the board that if they had any speaker recommendations to email Ann Strozyk, Matt Hoover and her.

8:28 PM meeting adjourned.