

Dc Held on-line and by phone through Webex
Meeting login info: ([Webex info](#))
May 12, 2022

Attendees

Bess Caplan	Howard County Conservancy
Olivia Farrow	Environmental Sustainability Board (ESB)
Christine Conn	ESB
Matthew Hoover	Office of Community Sustainability (OCS)
Megan Chobatan	Guest
Brian Alston	Guest
Josh Feldmark	OCS
Rohan Vyas	Youth Climate Change Institute
Larry Liebesman	ESB
Kimberly Davis	ESB
Brooke Abercrombie	ESB
Liz Feigner	Guest
Ruth White	Guest
Mark Southerland	Guest
Kim Pezze	ESB

Minutes

7:02 PM – Ms. Conn began the meeting

1) Meeting Minutes: April 14, 2022 (Vote)

Mr. Liebesman motioned to approve, and it was seconded by Ms. Abercrombie. All members in attendance were in favor of approving the minutes, so the motion passed.

2) Student Climate Change Program: Climate Change Institute – Bess Caplan and Rohan Vyas

Ms. Caplan provided a presentation on two climate change education programs that the Howard County Conservancy is running. The first program, [Climate Knowledge](#), is curriculum for 6th grade students. The goal of it is to empower students do research and action to reduce the impacts of the climate change emergency. The program started with three schools and their goal is to have every Howard County Middle School participate in the program. Some components of the program are curriculum development, developing a field trip for the students, having students collect data in their school yard and to have every student do an action project.

As a result of Climate Knowledge program they came up with a program that was called Climate Change Solutionist which morphed into a program called [Solutionist Sundays](#). Solutionist Sundays is a program for 6th graders that will go to the conservancy for four Sundays to engage in climate change conversations, learning, and they will do an action project.

The [Youth Climate Institute](#) (YCI) is a high school program that starts in 10th grade and is completed in the 12th grade. If they fulfill all the requirements, they become Certified Climate Change Ambassadors with honors, and will graduate with the certification.

Mr. Vyas, a member of the Youth Climate Change Institute, gave a personal experience of participating in the program. Mr. Vyas was part of the energy team and they decided to create a renewable lightbulb exchange as their action project. They have held two events and have exchanged over 250 incandescent lightbulbs. They have also given away over 500 LED lightbulbs. The goal of their action project is to promote cleaner energy usage, and the reduction of energy use within the household.

They are always looking for volunteers for these programs and you can reach out to Bess Caplan at bess.caplan@howardnature.org if you are interested. They are also putting together resources to have other groups such as churches and nature centers to become a YCI affiliate.

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

The OCS FY23 budget requests are currently being reviewed.

A press release was sent out looking for new board members and they received over a dozen applications back.

Ms. Pezze and Ms. Davis have been appointed to the ESB.

Howard County is joining the [National Building Performance Standards Coalition](#).

4) Announcements

[Senate Bill 630](#) was passed.

Resiliency Subcommittee hasn't been meeting recently but have been communicating and sharing information. One of the topics they have been discussing is the Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool. ([Link](#))

The meeting adjourned at 8:27 PM