



City of Annapolis

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Annapolis Environmental Commission

February 6, 2013

The Annapolis Environmental Commission (AEC) held its regular meeting on February 6, 2013 at 145 Gorman Street, Conference Room 3. **Chair** Weber called the meeting to order at 7:04p.m.

- Present:** **Chair** Weber, **Co-Vice Chair** Dr. Riegel, **Co-Vice Chair** Kissel, Dr. Patrick, Butler, Pogell, O'Leary
- Absent:** Zolper
- Staff:** Beard-Board Liasion
- Guest:** Murphy, Hebert

Introductions

Ms. Hebert is a recent college graduate who moved to the Annapolis area and is currently seeking environmental employment. She is interested in what the City of Annapolis is doing environmentally so located the AEC's information on the Green Drinks website and is mainly interested in water quality.

II. December 5, 2012 Meeting Minutes

Co-Vice Chair Dr. Riegel moved approval of the December 5, 2012 meeting minutes as amended. Dr. Patrick seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously in a vote of 7-0.

January 2, 2013 Meeting Minutes

The AEC deferred voting on the January 2, 2013 meeting minutes to its March 6, 2013 meeting.

III. PRESENTATION OF SIERRA CLUB AWARD

Chair Weber circulated the award from the Sierra Club to the AEC recognizing their community service of transmitting information to the public regarding the development projects along Forest Drive.

IV. REGULAR BUSINESS BEFORE THE COMMISSION

A. Subcommittee Reports

1. Development Review

Ms. Butler requested updates on the development properties discussed at the January 2, 2013 meeting specifically Hayes, Milkshake Lane and Rodgers property. Ms. Beard agreed to provide updates at the March 6, 2013 meeting.

2. Recycling

Dr. Patrick announced that Montgomery County, City of Baltimore as well as a few other Maryland municipalities have gone to plastic bag bans or applying fees on the use of plastic bags. He asked the Mayor if the City have considered this type of ban for the City. **Chair** Weber responded that Alderman Shropshire introduced a plastic bag ban approximately seven years but the effort failed. However, the news went throughout the nation where other jurisdictions begin to implement a ban.

He noted that Montgomery County requires all retail establishments to charge 5 cents for a paper or plastic bag. Once a store's profits reach \$100 it must begin reporting its bag sales to the county. Retailers then make 1 cent from each bag and 4 cents goes to the county's Water Quality Protection Charge Fund. Mr. Murphy added that AEC should consider how it can market reusable bags to the downtown retailers.

Mr. O'Leary noted that there is a deposit bill for bottles and cans called Recycling for Real. He also added that he hopes to convince several bars to start recycling.

Mr. Murphy asked about the status of the Environmental Stewardship Certification Program. Ms. Beard responded that this program has slowed down but the Boatyard Bar and Grill was recently certified. She is working to get a few more certified as well. Ms. Hebert added that she read that O'Briens is trying to make their business more eco-friendly. Ms. Beard noted that certified restaurants may not use Styrofoam containers for takeout and that they must have an environmental mission statement in order to be certified. Dr. Patrick suggested that the City develop a brochure that identifies criteria that should be met in order for a restaurant to be certified and the brochure should include example restaurants. (Note: there is one at http://www.annapolis.gov/Libraries/DNEP_Documents_PDFs/2011RestaurantWorkbook_1.sflb.ashx)

Mr. Murphy added that Harry Browne's and Galway Bay are partnering on a few things and purchased a bundling machine to break down the cardboard for sale. He explained that Justen Garrity of Veteran Compost recycles food waste from Harry Browne's and Galway Bay to turn into compost. These restaurants are saving money as result of this effort.

3. Outreach

This subcommittee report was addressed under regular business.

4. Water Quality/Stormwater

Co Chair Dr. Riegel noted that the subcommittee reviewed a letter to Severn River Commission and AEC from the Mayor. He noted that the letter contained several points and one of the points was the No Discharge Zone (NDZ). He explained that Annapolis is on track to obtain a NDZ designation that requires there is no discharge of the nutrients that are now legal to discharge in this designation. The subcommittee was unable to locate good data on the quantitative importance of marine discharges from boats and whether the nutrient load would be significant when compared to other loads. The subcommittee agreed to "tease some numbers out of the data to reach some conclusions."

Co Chair Dr. Riegel also discussed another point in the letter that related to fees and the possibility of waiving the \$5 fees for vessels wanting to pump out in Annapolis in an effort to get better compliance. There was some discussion regarding marina practices and owners taking greater responsibility for handling the boats in their charge. He concluded that the subcommittee agreed to discuss it further and report at the next (March 6, 2013) AEC meeting. Ms. Pogell believes that Ms. Broadbent indicated that there would be oversight of the stations perhaps under the permit program and asked Ms. Beard to check with Ms. Broadbent for clarification. Several members discussed possible stormwater projects to pursue. Dr. Patrick expressed interest in pursuing funding to undertake a localized manageable stormwater project e.g. Chesapeake Bay Trust or a small watershed grant application. He will review the different funding options available as well as possible partners.

Chair Weber noted that the City mentioned doing a stream restoration project at Truxtun Park. There was a discussion regarding alternate sites such as the headwaters at College Creek for this project. Ms. Butler explained the project is supposed to be on the property behind the Children's Museum off of Silopanna. **Chair** Weber requested a copy of the grant paperwork so that the AEC

determine the parameters of the project funding and what the City intends to do as well as visit/consider alternative sites.

B. DNEP Report

Ms. Beard reported that Mr. Savidge will be meeting with the Clay Street HOA regarding rain barrel installation.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. Chris Patrick Appointment

Dr. Patrick has been appointed to the AEC.

B. Vacancy News

The AEC deferred discussion on this agenda item to its March 6, 2013 meeting.

C. Crystal Springs

Chair Weber asked if there has been a revised Forest Stand Delineation for the Crystal Springs project. The AEC asked if DNEP had responded to the Crystal Springs comments and requested a copy of the responses. **Chair** Weber believes that DNEP responded and that Ms. Broadbent forwarded the AEC comments to Mr. Hyatt as noted in an email dated January 28, 2013.

Ms. Butler briefly reiterated the AEC's desire to preserve the wetlands in her latest conversation with Marshall Breines. She is in the discussion process of preserving the wetlands and the existing hydrology that might be impacted by the CCRC building. She noted that Mr. Breines is interested in mitigation, and has agreed to provide the AEC with a list of local consultants who are experts in hydrology.

D. Reserve at Quiet Waters Update

Ms. Butler agreed to contact Ms. Jane Holschuh in P&Z to determine when the Board of Appeals' opinion on the Reserve at Quiet Waters would be available to the public.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. City Legislation Brainstorm and Environmental Matters Committee (EMC)

Chair Weber spoke with Alderman Littman who was recently appointed to the Council and is the Chair of the EMC. Alderman Littman has asked that the AEC participate in the EMC monthly meetings and to help develop potential legislation. The next EMC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 19, 2013 at 4:00pm-5:00pm. **Chair** Weber plans to attend the meeting. He asked the AEC for suggestions on possible legislation that the City should adopt.

Dr. Patrick suggested a 5 cent tax on plastic bags to be modeled after the proposed State legislation or Montgomery County. He noted that Montgomery raised \$250,000 in revenue just from the 5 cent tax on bags. **Co Chair** Dr. Riegel explained that several stores are giving bag discounts for those patrons that bring their own bag. Mr. Murphy agreed to take some of the City's excess reusable bags to provide to the Google Varsity group for use.

Ms. Butler moved to suggest the tax on bags legislation to the EMC. Ms. Pogell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously in vote of 7-0.

Ms. Pogell suggested review and if needed, revision of recent zoning legislation on annexation. There was a brief discussion regarding combining Titles 17 and 21 in the Code to address overlapping and modeling the forestation conservation ordinance after Rockville. Ms. Butler noted that Ms. Pompa had prepared a document that was voted on at one of the AEC meetings. She agreed to re-circulate the original document.

Ms. Butler moved that the City adopt the Forest Conservation Act ordinance similar to Rockville, with slight changes by the AEC. Ms. Pogell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously in a vote of 7-0.

Ms. Butler moved to introduce legislation that eliminates the overlap in the environmental regulations in Chapters 17 and 21 of the Annapolis City Code. Ms. Pogell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously in a vote of 7-0.

B. **CDAC Presentation – February 7, 2013**

Ms. Beard reported that the Planning Commission is hosting the City Dock Master Plan presentation for Boards and Commission on February 7, 2013 at 7:00pm in Council Chambers. The public is invited to attend but the presentation is geared to the Commissions.

C. **County Council Legislation**

Chair Weber asked whether the AEC wants to support County or State environmental legislation relevant to Annapolis and/or ask the Mayor and City Council to support. He sent out a list of environmental bills that are being submitted this County session. He noted that there is a Critical Area and Stormwater Utility Bill that are being proposed. He was unsure of the status of these bills. Ms. Pogell noted that the Critical Area bill was to be voted on February 4, 2013 and she does not believe that any new amendments would be introduced between now and the February 19, 2013 meeting. **Chair** Weber agreed to check on the status.

D. **State Environmental Legislation**

Chair Weber provided members a copy of the January 29, 2013 email that summarizes some of the State environmental legislation. He asked for comments from those who attended the Environmental Summit. Mr. O'Leary did not attend the summit but noted that the Offshore Wind bill is looking promising with 24 co-sponsors in the Senate. He noted that the Chesapeake Climate Action Network is holding a rally on Wednesday, February 14, 2013 at Lawyers Mall. Ms. Butler asked if the City had transitioned over to wind energy. Ms. Beard agreed to check into this with Mr. Savidge. **Chair** Weber asked other than AEC posting the State legislation in its newsletter is there any other method of getting the word out. Mr. O'Leary suggested sending out Facebook alerts. Mr. O'Leary agreed to place some of the links to the legislation on the Facebook page.

Electric School Buses

Mr. Murphy suggested electric school buses which would cost about \$40,000 more than a regular bus but have significant gas savings. He noted that the range is sufficient for a normal day. He agreed to put something together for the AEC to review.

E. **Other**

Co- Vice Chair Dr. Riegel reported that the newsletters are all posted on AEC's website and asked if the minutes could also be posted. Ms. Beard said that Ms. Raftovich will post the minutes but there will be a new process for posting minutes.

Mr. Murphy reported that the Green Films of the Annapolis Film Festival is scheduled for March 23, 2013 at 9:00am at St. John's College. The AEC agreed to advertise this in the newsletter.

VIII. **ADJOURNMENT**

The next AEC meeting is scheduled for March 6, 2013 at 7:00pm at 145 Gorman Street. With there being no further business, Ms. Pogell moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:02pm. Ms. Butler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously in a vote of 7-0.