



City of Annapolis
Office of Environmental Policy
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Annapolis Environmental Commission
VIRTUAL MEETING
May 13, 2020

The Annapolis Environmental Commission (AEC) held its regularly scheduled meeting as a virtual meeting on May 13, 2020. **Chair** Buchheister called the meeting to order at 7:03p.m.

Members Present: **Chair** Buchheister, **Vice-Chair** Giblin, Stephenson, Murphy, O'Leary, Bohanan,

Members Absent: Turgeon, Rowel

Staff Present: J. Guild, R. Hodo

Guest Present: Jeremy Hanson, Diane Butler

II. REGULAR BUSINESS BEFORE THE COMMISSION

Chair Buchheister moved to amend the agenda to discuss the Kiddie Academy and Office of Environmental Policy legislation. **Vice Chair** Giblin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously in a vote of 5-0. (Bohanan not present at vote)

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. March 4, 2020, Meeting Minutes

The AEC deferred voting on the March 4, 2020 meeting minutes to its June 3, 2020 meeting.

III. DEVELOPMENT

A. Kiddie Academy

Chair Buchheister explained that the amended Kiddie Academy application has not been submitted to date but there have been discussions with the Planning and Zoning office who suggested several modifications. She explained that because of the project size; the applicant is proposing to remove too much forest and leave a small strip of forest along one side of the development. The AEC submitted a letter to the Planning Commission on the applicant's first submission strongly disagreeing to the elimination of tree canopy and objected to the applicant's proposal for meeting the land use requirements. The other issue is the applicant is proposing to use selective clearing of the forested area as mitigation. This area is a conservation easement that is being held by the Annapolis Conservancy Board. Ms. Guild added that she believes the developer is not appropriately applying the forest conservation requirements with this mitigation request. **Chair** Buchheister explained that the developer is "pushing back on the width of the strip for the retaining wall" so believes that the AEC should submit another letter on the new submission supporting Planning and Zoning staff's recommendation specifically opposing the selective clearing and noting that the project is still too big for the site. She noted that this is the first project processed under the new Forest Conservation Act so need to support planning staff on this.

Chair Buchheister moved that the AEC write another letter to the Planning staff concurring with their recommendation of opposition to the applicant's selective clearing and getting forest conservation credits for it; opposing the retaining wall and the two small sliver of forest; and reiterate that the project is too big for the site so recommend denial of the special exception use as requested. Mr. O'Leary seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously in a vote of 5-0. (Bohanan not present at vote)

B. Providence Point (formerly Crystal Spring) – Stormwater/National Lutheran Easement

Chair Buchheister noted that Planning and Zoning just recently received the application for Providence Point so AEC will have time to comment. She went over the things that the developer has agreed to do specifically agreed to place the land in a permanent conservation easement but since have requested that it be placed in conservation for twenty years to allow for additional work if the community needs it. The AEC hoped that the developer would build up in height while maintaining the same footprint but the developer prefers to leave this open. Mr. Giblin agreed to provide a copy of the draft deed of easement language for review.

Chair Buchheister suggested tabling the discussion to allow the AEC opportunity to review the deed of easement language and discuss the preservation of a permanent easement instead of only 20 years at the June 3, 2020 meeting. **Vice Chair** Giblin agreed to scan the deed of easement language to the AEC for review.

IV. LEGISLATION

1. Plastic Bag Ban – Ordinance - #O-9-20

Chair Buchheister explained that the plastic bag ban was pulled because of the COVID-19 event and is not sure when it will be resubmitted.

2. Office of Environmental Policy Reorganization – Ordinance #O-20-20

Chair Buchheister noted that this legislation proposes to create a Deputy City Manager for Resilience and Sustainability position to serve directly under the City Manager and to pull the ordinance proposed to form the Office of Environmental Policy. She noted that the AEC needs in addition to this position; liaisons from Planning and Zoning, Public Works for support. Ms. Guild said that the AEC will have opportunity to review the legislation prior to approval. **Chair** Buchheister suggested that the AEC review the ordinance for discussion at the June 3, 2020 meeting and will send the link to the legislation.

3. Reserve Spaces for Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Legislation

Ms. Guild briefly discussed another piece of legislation introduced by Alderman Savidge that designates spacing/signage reserved for the charging of electric vehicles and an associated fine of \$100 for those who are in violation at the Pip Moyer Recreation Center. The AEC deferred comments on this legislation.

V. COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING – TIMING FOR AEC INPUT

Chair Buchheister noted that the public input that the AEC received on the Comprehensive Plan needs to be sorted and she along with Mr. O'Leary can work to get it sorted into goals and strategies. She also sent the PowerPoint presentation to Dr. Nash to share with the Nitty Gritty who is responsible for sorting all the input received. Other than that, there has been no other information shared. She polled the AEC for topics they believe should be worked on.

VI. EARTH DAY – OEP PLEDGE ACTIVITY

Ms. Guild will check in with Ms. Mitchell Stephenson to see how many people participated in the pledge to do something for earth day activities during the month of April. She said that the Department created reusable earth day banners that were hung on Dock Street.

Miscellaneous

It was briefly discussed of inviting a member of Public Works to discuss the new maintenance facilities project proposed for Hudson Street and the old City landfill composting facility proposal. The AEC will discuss the stormwater fee at the June 3, 2020 meeting as well. Ms. Stephenson will review the plans to draft some questions in google docs for AEC review.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

With there being no further business, **Chair** Buchheister moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:30pm. Ms. Stephenson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously in a vote of 6-0.

The next AEC meeting is Wednesday, June 3, 2020, at 7:00 pm at 145 Gorman Street.

Tami Hook, Recorder