

Calvert County Environmental Commission
Meeting Minutes – January 31, 2022

Members Present: Jim Levin (Chair), Amanda Knobloch (Vice Chair), Dave Hardy, Carys Mitchelmore, Andy Rogers, Mike Rooney, Autumn Phillips-Lewis, Neil Smith

Members Absent: Chad Leo

Staff: Paul Conover, *Liaison* & Jesse Clark, *Moderator*

Guests: Dr. Clifford S. Mitchell & Kiera Saleem

- I. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:06 pm.
- II. **Roll Call for Quorum:** Jim Levin facilitated a roll call for quorum purposes. Eight members were present, achieving a quorum for the meeting.
- III. **Approval of Agenda:** Andy Rogers motioned to approve the agenda. Dave Hardy seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.
- IV. **Guest Speaker Program:** Dr. Clifford S. Mitchell, Director of Environmental Health, Bureau of Prevention and Health Promotion Administration in the MD Department of Health and Kiera Saleem, MD Department of Environment. *The Departments of Health and Environment work closely together on Radon-related issues. Both work under the State Indoor Radon Grant provided by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to reduce indoor radon exposure.* Dr. Mitchell and Ms. Saleem presented information about raising awareness about radon, radon-related issues, and health and environmental impacts of exposure to radon; followed by answering questions from the Environmental Commission.
- V. **Election of Officers:** Paul explained the requirements that need to be met in order to become or renew position as Chair or Vice Chair of Environmental Commission.
 - a. Chair:
 - i. Nominations: Jim Levin, *accepted*
 - ii. Dave Hardy motions to re-elect Jim Levin as Chair of Environmental Commission. Andy Rogers seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.
 - b. Vice Chair:
 - i. Nominations: Amanda Knobloch, *accepted*
 - ii. Andy Rogers motions to re-elect Amanda Knobloch as Vice Chair of Environmental Commission. Dave Hardy seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

VI. Old Business:

a. Website Progress Update: Amanda

- i. No major updates
- ii. Forwarded suggestions subcommittee made to Paul
- iii. Contacting the Web Master in the next month or so
- iv. Working with the Web Master to implement the suggestions we made and then talking with marketing at some point to talk about getting Environmental Commission's name out there.

b. Leaf-Burning Alternatives: Jim

- i. Dave pointed out a couple months ago that it's illegal in county to openly burn leaves – typically in the fall. Jim did research and state Department of Natural Resources regulates leaf burning, in Maryland Code of Regulations: Title 8, Subtitle 7, Chapter 4 on Forest Fire Protection.
- ii. Jim will send a copy of this to everyone
- iii. Jim would like to put together an FAQ recommending alternatives
- iv. Jim would also like to speak with Dept. of Public Works about any policies they have about open-burning and alternatives (i.e. composting piles, bringing leaves to the Appeal Landfill, and any other possibilities)
- v. *Request to Paul:* Could you check on an appropriate contact at Dept. of Public Works that Dave H. and Jim L. can speak to?

c. Strategic Initiatives: Jim

- i. One of the things discussed in November and December meetings was whether or not to adopt more than one Strategic Initiatives for emphasis in terms of FAQ's/Public Awareness/Public Outreach/Writing Articles – Is this something the commission is interested in? Should we formally adopt more than one? (Radon Awareness; Local Flooding; Invasive Species and Native Plants; Reforestation; Stormwater Management; Sustainable Household Practices; Waste Minimization and Recycling; & General Water Quality.
- ii. First question to take into consideration: Should we adopt one or more of Strategic Initiatives to really focus on during the course of this year? For the purpose of educating the public.
 - Autumn: *Certainly not opposed to the idea; what's involved, how much work, etc. If time allows, it's a good idea.*
 - Dave: *It's a good year to push radon – One topic and it be radon.*
 - Amanda: *Good idea to maybe pick 2 or 3 – not too many though.*
 - Neil: *Shouldn't spread ourselves too thin, won't have a concentrated message. On board with Radon, but sees Amanda's point of not solely focused on one issue all the time. Another topic could maybe be: Invasive Species.*

- Mike: *Is there a mapped out Strategic Vision of 2022? Items that we have or are seeking to address? (Wasn't sent the "menu" of options to choose from – Jim sent it via email during the meeting for his review.) – He asked to get circled back to.*
- Carys: *Good idea; depends on the topics but 2 would be good.*
 - a. *How do we pick them: Ask BOCC (Do they have anything they want us to focus on?); Can we do a Social Media poll and get public feedback?; or Do we something ourselves?*
 - b. *Out of the list that was sent:*
 - i. *Water Quality (Stormwater Management fits in with this topic, or could be combined. Waste Recycling and Plastic Pollution could as well.)*
 - ii. *Invasive Species*
 - iii. *Environmental Justice could be considered; it's broad enough.*
 - c. *Maybe we can do a workshop?*
- Andy: *Reservations about how it will be picked: Are people excited/willing to work on this?*
 - a. *Better to let people pick issues they're interested in*
 - b. *Regroup subcommittees around issues rather than functions – Maybe pick 2-3 subcommittee to work on 2-3 topics.*

d. Radon Awareness Campaign Update: Jim

- i. Use the presentation
- ii. Request some wording for suggesting a proclamation from BOCC
- iii. Can start distributing Radon brochures
- iv. We might consider an article in one of the local newspapers or maybe Facebook or other Social Media Platforms
 - Marty Madsen covers local issues in one of the newspapers.

e. Action Items: Jim – Not going over all of them

- i. Try to recruit members
 - Knowledgeable on one or more environmental issues
 - Interested in being active on environmental issues within county
- ii. Discuss Annual Report in a little bit: If some haven't seen it yet, we might table it to next month for discussion and approval.

VII. **Sub-Committee Reports:**

a. FAQs: Jim Levin spoke on this:

- i. Drafted the FAQs for Household Hazardous Waste & Paint Waste.

- ii. The one's had approved are not on this month's agenda, we will talk a little bit later about the Paint Waste Disposal Variation on FAQ that Mike has reformatted.
- iii. Want to have full Environmental Commission review and approve household hazardous waste & Paint Waste disposal FAQs.
- iv. Dave and Andy are drafting one or more FAQs on Southern Maryland wildlife.
- v. Based on discussions with Dept. of Public Works, Dave and Jim will be drafting an FAQ on Leaf Burning Alternatives.

b. Public Education and Outreach: Amanda Knobloch spoke on this:

- i. No updates
- ii. Those in subcommittee will be emailed in February to set up a meeting to discuss 2022 plan and what we'll be doing for Pump for the Bay, etc.
- iii. Any Pump for the Bay applications should be sent to Amanda to handle.

c. Guest Speakers: Neil Smith spoke on this:

- i. No updates
- ii. Have guest speakers until March – revisit at a later date: subcommittee meeting in February sometime
- iii. Speaker in February? Send email to Jim.
- iv. Jim heard a presentation from a Deputy Attorney General of Maryland on Environmental Justice:
 - Will talk to Neil more about this at a future subcommittee meeting
 - He's somebody we should probably reach out to, to see if he'd be willing to give a presentation on Environmental Justice and some things the state is moving forward on.
- v. Carys: Had a guest speaker in one of her classes who has started up an NGO on Environmental Justice – She might be a good guest speaker. *We will discuss this at the next subcommittee meeting.*

d. Sustainability: Jim Levin spoke on this:

This wraps into Radon and Strategic Initiatives, so there is nothing else to report at the moment.

VIII. New Business:

a. FAQ Approval: Household Paint Waste Disposal

- i. Has everyone had a chance to look at Mike's reformatting?
- ii. Dave added a section on spray paint can disposal and was told to expand on that to spray can disposal but should have a paragraph on spray paint can disposal.

- iii. Mike: There are additional federal regulations that passed a number of years ago regarding aerosol cans and how to dispose of them.
- iv. Autumn: There was a sentence added to bottom in red; it should have a "." after "...waste site..." and the rest should be its own sentence. For the entire last paragraph, "oil-based" should continue to be hyphenated like it is at the top.
- v. Jim: I will send out the full-length FAQ; put the Environmental Commission logo on the upper right-hand corner; maybe use these as handouts and edit other FAQs to be one-page documents.
- vi. Amanda: I will make sure FAQ side of the website looks nicer and more inviting.
- vii. Jim: I will send something out to clarify what we're doing
- viii. Dave: I think I added a paragraph to one of the FAQ versions about spray paint can disposal.
- ix. Jim: We should do a separate FAQ on that, in my opinion, since it's not just spray paint can but also spray can.
- x. Mike: I agree, but we should have at least one sentence on it: "For further information, look here..."

b. General Announcements:

- i. 2021 Financial Disclosure Forms:
 - Has everyone received this?
 - a. If they have any questions, contact Ashley Staples-Reid.
 - b. It is due back by March 31st.
- ii. Maryland Open Meeting Act – Email Correspondence:
 - Paul: Emails are BCC's because it's to protect everybody since the Open Meeting Laws extend to Email Correspondences.

c. Draft Annual Report Review:

- i. General consensus was to table this until next meeting.
- ii. Andy motions to hold off on reviewing the Draft Annual Report until next month. Amanda seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

d. 2022 Meeting Dates:

- i. The meeting dates will typically be the last Monday of each month, starting at 6 pm.
- ii. The exception is
 - May, which will be May 23rd instead of Memorial Day, and
 - December, which will be December 12th to avoid interference with the holidays.
- iii. Andy: *Is the December meeting necessary?* (The bylaws state the Environmental Commission should hold one regular meeting per month...Which means it is not necessarily a requirement to hold one every month.)

- iv. Paul: *It is good to have the date on there with the caveat that it is not necessary, and then decide a month or two before the meeting whether it is necessary to hold the meeting.*
- v. Amanda motions to accept the meeting schedule of 2022 with the amendments as discussed. Andy seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

IX. **Public Comment:** There were no public comments.

X. **Adjournment:**

- a. Andy Rogers motioned to adjourn, Dave Hardy seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.
- b. The next meeting of the Calvert County Environmental Commission will be February 28, 2022.

Meeting Minutes for the January 2022 Environmental Commission Meeting were prepared by Caitlyn Tolomei (P&Z Administrative Support Staff).