

# Calvert County Environmental Commission

## Meeting Minutes – May 18, 2020

**Members Present:** Carys Mitchelmore, Autumn Phillips-Lewis, Ron Klauda, Andy Rogers, Jim Levin, Mike O'Donnell, Patty Long-Bradley, Jane Dodds

**Members Absent:** Shelby Cross

**Staff:** Will Hager; Scarlett Oller

**Guests/Liaisons:** None

- I. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm. The group met virtually using Zoom.
- II. **Introduction to Virtual Meetings:** Scarlett Oller familiarized the Commission with Zoom features and etiquette.
- III. **Approval of Agenda:** Commissioner Long-Bradley motioned to approve the agenda. Commissioner Mitchelmore seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.
- IV. **Approval of Minutes:** Commissioner Klauda recommended making two edits. Commissioner Mitchelmore motioned to approve the agenda as amended. Commissioner Long-Bradley seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
- V. **Old Business:**
  - a. Review of Action Items from 2/24/2020 Meeting – The purchase of supplies for the Public Education & Outreach subcommittee has been put on hold due to the cancellation of many events. The tri-fold poster board is being purchased from a vendor.
  - b. Membership – Commissioner Klauda encouraged the commission to recruit new members.

### VI. Sub-Committee Reports:

- a. FAQs — Commissioner O'Donnell discussed his work on developing Recycling FAQ's and commission members provided feedback.
- b. Public Education/Outreach — Commissioner Mitchelmore discussed updating materials for potential public outreach events in the fall. Commissioner Klauda discussed a conference call that took place with Matt Cumers of the Calvert County Health Department and University of Maryland Extension personnel about coordinating public outreach concerning environmental and septic system issues and the Pump for the Bay contest. Commissioner Klauda mentioned the recent press release promoting the Pump for the Bay contest. Commissioner Long-Bradley brought up potential issues for local businesses supporting the Pump for the Bay contest as in years past in light of difficulties brought on by COVID-19.

Commissioner O'Donnell asked if it would be possible for Pump for the Bay applicants to submit their applications digitally. Commissioner Mitchelmore asked if the county could continue to put out press releases promoting the Pump for the Bay contest periodically every few months.

- c. Public Guest Speaker Program — Commissioner Klauda asked if Will could find someone from DPW to speak on the subject of wastewater treatment in the county. A guest speaker to cover the subject of environmental law has been scheduled for the September meeting, a speaker on solar energy in southern Maryland has been scheduled for the August meeting. Commissioner Levin recommended several potential speakers to speak on sustainability issues currently being explored by the Sustainability subcommittee.
- d. Sustainability — Commissioner Levin and Commissioner Klauda reported on conversations they have had with radon service providers and realtors on the subject of proposing a radon testing ordinance. Commissioner Levin reported that none of the radon service providers expressed much enthusiasm in having a county regulation requiring testing of real estate property transfers. After conversations with realtors and a Montgomery County employee with first hand experience with a similar radon testing law Commissioner Klauda recommended pursuing education and outreach as opposed to proposing a radon testing ordinance in the county. Commissioner O'Donnell suggested hosting a webinar for Calvert County residents featuring experts speaking on the subject of radon and that it could be recorded and added to the Environmental Commission webpage.

Commissioner Levin discussed developing a carbon footprint/greenhouse gas tracking program for the county. He reported that the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments tracks greenhouse gas emissions for the Washington metropolitan area and may have some data on Calvert County transportation related emissions. He mentioned that the upcoming speakers from SMECO and the Health Department could potentially educate the commission on activity relating to the installation of electric vehicle charging stations in the county and the topic of graywater reuse regulations. He discussed proposed legislation in Annapolis being considered that would prevent HOA's from prohibiting various low impact landscaping practices (such as raingardens) in designated open space. Commissioner Levin asked if the Environmental Commission would be interested in endorsing such legislation and Will provided the process for which that could be pursued.

## **VII. New Business:**

- a. General Announcements — Commissioner Long-Bradley mentioned being impressed by how much air quality has improved following COVID-19 related shutdowns. The commission agreed that the virtual meeting format went well and discussed ways to improve on it for the next meeting.
- b. Upcoming Events — The next Environmental Commission meeting is scheduled for June 29.

**VIII. Public Comment:**

- a. There was no public comment.

**IX. Adjournment:**

- a. Commissioner Mitchelmore motioned to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Long-Bradley seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:09 pm.