

COE agenda for 3-4-1

New Recorder

-Mark volunteered to be the recorder at the last meeting and provided the minutes that were sent out yesterday. Thanks Mark!

Website

-Paul/Bill/Sue, have you had a chance to determine the process for updating our website? Sue, I did not write down the name of your coworker that you mentioned as being able to assist with our website.

Woods in Your Backyard Workshop

-Sue requested a press release and the information for the workshop was disseminated. The workshop is this Saturday, March 7th in the Suite C conference room of the Soil Conservation building. I have volunteered to pick up lunch from Blue Wind Gourmet and Brad has volunteered to help. We will discuss any further logistics at the meeting.

Earth Day on the Square

-Earth Day in Leonardtown Square will be Sunday, April 19th. Sue forwarded the Application email last week; the application deadline is Friday, March 20th, so we will try to fill out the application as best we can during the meeting. We should also try to start organizing time slots for volunteering.

Membership and quorum

-Diane Gleissner researched the membership details in depth and got back to me with this:

“I sat down and looked at all the information that I have on the Commission on the Environment. In the resolutions prior to and after the Commission merged with the Solid Waste Advisory Committee, I see only that there are to be seven members. I don't see where there are supposed to be alternates either. I know in their by-laws it mentions that alternates can be named if needed, but that should be within the seven members.

In light of this, I was going to suggest to the Commissioners that we go with the original number of seven. I know Stacey didn't accept another term since she is leaving and Heather is a rep. of the Health dept. so she doesn't count as a member which should bring us to six current members and one vacancy once Stacey leaves.

I'm putting some information together for the Commissioners for the packages for next week. If you have any objection to me going back to the original number of 7, please let me know. I'm not sure how that ever got to 11. I hope this email isn't too confusing.”

-She has a deadline and needs an answer to this ASAP, so I told her that we would discuss it this week and get an answer back to her following the meeting.

Lexington Park Solid Waste Goal

-We will discuss the wording of the stated goals and provide any recommendations that we have for the following:

- Solid Waste Goal: All properties within the Lexington Park Development District will be serviced by a solid waste provider that will include single stream, recycling pickup. Single-family residential recycling will be curbside pickup. Recycling for multi-family and non-residential uses will be via dedicated containers, sized and located to ensure efficiency and ease of use.

Proposal for plastic bag ban and initiation of PAYT program in the county

-The next public forum for the Commissioners is scheduled for March 10th. I plan to attend and inform the Commissioners of our main goals. The three topics I would like to discuss are plastic bag bans, PAYT programs, and our proposed composting initiative at Duke Elementary. With regards to the plastic bag ban, I was simply planning to see what the Commissioners thoughts are on this sort of initiative. I have done some research into present PAYT programs including our neighbors: Charles County has a Tag-a-Bag program, which is volume-based and allows residents to purchase tickets for \$1.75, allowing them to dump up to 32 gallons of trash; Calvert County has a tipping fee that is weight-based and charged at the center. I will be watching an hour-long webinar tomorrow before the meeting to learn more about PAYT programs. I plan to take what I learn to the Commissioners and inform them of our \$7.5 million debt related to landfill fees, compared to the negligible debt of our neighboring counties, and of the \$10 million brought in annually by those counties through their individual programs and how we bring in ~\$2.8 million annually without such programs in place. I will also inform them of our intentions to work on starting a composting program at Duke Elementary (more below).

Sustainable Maryland Municipality Certification

I plan to attend the Leonardtown Council public meeting on March 20th to discuss the certification. I believe this could be an incredible way of obtaining incentives and grants to make our area more sustainable, and I will try my best to get the Council members on board.

Anaerobic Digestors

- Any update on arranging a visit/tour of the county's digester?

Composting initiative updates

-I spoke in front of the Board of Education last week regarding our hopes to start a composting project at Duke Elementary. It seemed to be taken well by the Board members and afterwards, Deputy Superintendent Brad Clements approached me and said he would be contacting me shortly to organize a meeting of people in the know that could help determine the feasibility of this project. I have not heard from him yet, but I will contact him next week if he does not get back to me this week.