

COMMISSION ON THE ENVIROMENT MINUTES
Potomac Building
Minutes of September 2, 2009

COE Members present were Barne Wheeler, Chairman; Judy Gilman, Susan Blake, Caroline Miller, Marta Kelsey, Sandy Neville, and Daryl Calvano. Members absent were Troy Hansen, Bill Shreve, and Larry Hartwick. Others present were Sue Veith, Laura Seigert, and Paul Waxman.

- I) **Call to Order:** Mr. Wheeler called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.
- II) **Discussion & Approval of August Meeting Minutes:** A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of August 5, 2009 as amended.

III) **Continuing Business:**

a. **Environmental Concern Summit**

The Commission discussed holding the summit on October 24, 2009. Mr. Wheeler stated this will not give the Commission the time needed to effectively plan the summit. Mr. Wheeler stated he would like to have a Planning Commission, Development Review Forum, Chamber of Commerce, and a Real Estate member present. Ms. Blake stated she likes the idea of November 7, 2009 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and looking for a difference venue. Ms. Neville stated Evergreen Elementary School would be an ideal location since a tour could be arranged. Ms. Veith suggested having a letter signed and sent by County Administrator, John Savich. Mr. Wheeler said he would look into this and that we should nail down the list of potential participants at the October meeting.

Ms. Kelsey stated to date we have had 14 respondents for addresses. Mr. Wheeler asked if Ms. Stuckert could provide addresses for Planning Commission, Development Review Forum, Chamber of Commerce, and Real Estate contacts. Ms. Kelsey stated she would see if she could get addresses for these persons.

The Commission reviewed the draft County Administrator letter and made corrections as necessary.

b. **COE Comprehensive Plan Comments & Discussion**

The Commission reviewed the draft letter expressing their comments on the Comprehensive Plan revisions and made corrections as necessary. Ms. Veith suggested we not send the letter until we see the final version of the Comp. Plan that is forwarded to the Commissioners. Mr. Wheeler stated he would wait to make the revisions before submitting the letter. The group agreed.

c. **Board of Appeals Recent Ruling Update**

Mr. Wheeler, Ms. Veith & Dennis Roth, an affected neighbor, gave an overview of two cases where the Board of Appeals have approved projects where staff and the Critical Area Commission recommended denial. Mr. Wheeler said he had been told that the Critical Area Commission is debating whether to appeal to the Circuit Court or not. Mr. Wheeler stated the Commission had decided at their last meeting to delay writing a strongly worded letter to the County Commissioners until we saw whether an appeal was forthcoming. Ms. Blake recommended actively soliciting neighbors to help write the letter.

d. **Riverfest**

Mr. Wheeler stated Riverfest is September 27, 2009 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Mr. Wheeler asked if we should set up a booth. It was the consensus of the Commission, because of lack of personnel availability to man a booth, not to set up a booth for Riverfest.

e. **Staffing Changes Update**

Mr. Wheeler stated he sent a letter appointing Mr. Downs to the Water Policy Task Force and an email to Rebecca Scofield thanking her for her service and requesting her mailing address to send her a confirming letter but has not heard back.

f. **Gray Water System Update**

Mr. Wheeler stated Mr. David Kelsey and Mr. Larry Hartwick are working on this.

g. **Green Building Update**

Ms. Neville stated the Green Building Committee has decided to meet the first Wednesday of each month at the Higher Ed. Center from 7:30 to 9:00 a.m. Ms. Neville stated she will have a student group come in at 7:00 a.m. to help set up and possibly have them take on projects in the future to report back to the Commission. Ms. Neville

stated she is still working on advertising and gathering attendees. Mr. Wheeler asked for a blurb about the Green Building Committee so he can have it placed on the greensomd.com website. Ms. Neville stated she would like to send out a letter to certain persons. Mr. Wheeler recommended gathering the addresses and a letter so that Ms. Stuckert can mail them out.

IV) New Business:

a. COE / SWAC Integration Discussion

Mr. Wheeler stated he received a letter from the County Commissioners proposing COE and SWAC be joined into one group. Mr. Wheeler stated this is not an insignificant undertaking and the proposal came with no additional resources or COE positions. Mr. Wheeler stated he is not enthused about undertaking this at this time. Ms. Kelsey agreed. Mr. Waxman stated these two groups have different dynamics. Ms. Blake stated in terms of our interests there are have been many times when these two groups have had similar interests. Ms. Veith stated in order to make this decision the Commission would need more information on what the Commissioners want accomplished. Mr. Wheeler stated he feels this would add a larger work load to the Commission tasks. He also agreed to contact the County Administrator to see what the impetus for the proposal was.

Mr. Wheeler asked if SWAC has documents they are supposed to formally review. Mr. Waxman stated yes, the Solid Waste Plan which is written in technical form. It was the consensus of the Commission to further discuss this at the October meeting.

b. Other

None

V) Announcements

None

VI) Adjournment: the meeting was adjourned at 8:58 p.m.