

COMMISSION ON THE ENVIROMENT MINUTES
Potomac Building
Minutes of November 4, 2009

COE Members present were Barne Wheeler, Chairman; Marta Kelsey, Troy Hansen, Susan Blake, Caroline Miller, Larry Hartwick. Members absent were Bill Shreve, Sandy Neville and Daryl Calvano. Others present were Sue Veith, Paul Waxman, Rocky Rowland, Bob Elwood, Bob Lewis and David Triantos.

- I) **Call to Order:** Mr. Wheeler called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.
- II) **Discussion & Approval of October Meeting Minutes:** A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes and the minutes were approved.
- III) **Continuing Business:**
- a. **Environmental Concern Survey Summit.** Mr. Wheeler briefed the group on the cancellation of the Summit and the new approach. At the end, each member of the group agreed to bring in three initiatives for each of the two categories: Pollution of Waterways & Low Impact & Sustainable Development. The December meeting would consolidate initiatives from everyone and determine how to distribute to the Summit organizations/individuals who have expressed interest in continuing with the effort.
 - b. **COE/SWAC Integration Discussion.** The group went over the COE's proposed changes to its charter, and made suggested changes. Mr. Wheeler indicated that he would send the document to the County Administrator as soon as he could insert the changes.
 - c. **COE Comprehensive Plan Comments & Discussion.** The group went over the proposed comments on the County's 2009 Comprehensive Plan and approved suggested changes. The group all felt that the COE's comments should be briefed to the Commissioners in addition to forwarding our comments in writing.
 - d. **Board of Appeals Recent Ruling.** Sue Veith indicated that the State Critical Area Commission was going to appeal both rulings; consequently, there is nothing for the COE to do except monitor the situation.
 - e. **Gray Water System Update –** Mr. Hartwick indicated that he would make sure that a meeting was held before the next WPTF meeting to discuss the Habitat for Humanity rain water/cistern project.
- IV) **New Business:**
- a. **McIntosh Run Property.** Mr. Rowland briefed the COE on the 80-forested acres he owns. He mentioned that the property is in an area where endangered species reside and borders McIntosh Run. He desires to transfer the property to the County, the State or some environmental organization that will administer the property to insure that it remains forested woodland. He also indicated that he was concerned that the funding to purchase the property might disappear if no one agreed to accept title to it. After discussion, the group decided to write two letters expressing the Commission's strong desire to see the property preserved and to find an acceptable organization to hold title. Larry Hartwick agreed to make the first draft of both letters. The group would then electronically circulate them for comment. Mr. Wheeler would then finalize and transmit to the Commissioners and to the Board of Public Works who oversees State land acquisition.
 - a. **Membership Loss & Voting on New Members.** Mr. Wheeler briefed the group on the resignation of Judy Gilmore. Then the group reviewed and voted on new candidates. Mr. Wheeler would consolidate votes and forward the COE's recommendations to the County Administrator.
 - b. **Christmas Conservation Initiative.** Ms. Kelsey mentioned that she would like to see a Christmas Conservation Initiative posted on the COE's web page under the Hot Topics Category. Mr. Wheeler would post this to the web site as soon as she had it in final form.
- V) **Announcements. None**
- VI) **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.