

COMMISSION ON THE ENVIROMENT MINUTES
Potomac Building
Minutes of December 3, 2008

COE Members present were Barne Wheeler, Chairman; Marta Kelsey, Troy Hansen, Susan Blake, Bill Shreve, Daryl Calvano, and Caroline Miller. Frank Allen and Sandy Neville were excused. Others present were Jada Stuckert, Recording Secretary.

- I) **Call to Order:** Mr. Wheeler called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.
- II) **Discussion & Approval of November Meeting Minutes:** A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of November 5, 2007 as presented.
- III) **Continuing Business:**
 - a. **Menhaden Project Update** – Mr. Wheeler stated he received an email from Ms. Rochow explaining that the “in detail” analysis originally sought had not been undertaken by any of the schools. The Commission discussed what to do with the project now. Ms. Kelsey stated the college may be a good place to turn to next. Mr. Shreve recommended the Envirothon which is held once a year. Mr. Calvano stated he would speak with Mr. Bruce Young who is involved in the Envirothon to see if this would be a good project.
 - b. **Update on Environmental Concern Survey**
 1. **Review of Surveys** – Mr. Wheeler stated that 11 organizational and 7 personal surveys were submitted. Mr. Wheeler stated we sent out over 50 emails so this is not much of a return, but others disagreed and felt the response was acceptable. Mr. Wheeler asked if we should analyze the information we have now or put this survey back out there and hope for a better response. Ms. Blake recommended moving forward with these results. Ms. Kelsey stated this can always be updated later on.
 2. **Next Step** – The Commission reviewed the surveys. Mr. Wheeler noted there is a reoccurring theme of critical area and stormwater management practices.
 3. **How to Compile** - Ms. Blake recommended one person from the group summarize all the surveys for review at the next meeting. Mr. Wheeler recommended separating the group and individual responses and further separating into general categories. Mr. Wheeler stated he would work on the common concerns raised for the next meeting. Ms. Blake stated she would be willing to help with the data and graph analysis. Results of this compilation would be available for the next meeting.
 - c. **Solid Waste Issues**
 1. **Television Report** – Mr. Wheeler stated he found a couple places that will take your TV set however do not think they would take 100 of them for a mass effort. Mr. Wheeler stated Calvert County’s recycling procedures are the same as ours. They too said there is no market for recycling TV’s therefore they throw them away. Mr. Wheeler stated he believes it to be unrealistic to expect the Commissioners to take some dramatic TV collection action if there is not a place to take them away. Mr. Wheeler recommended holding off on this item until sufficient data becomes available. The group agreed.
 2. **Fluorescent Bulb Disposal** – Mr. Wheeler stated dealing with the bulbs is easier. Mr. Wheeler stated citizens could hold on to their bulbs until a specific

hazardous waste day is available. Mr. Calvano stated he has heard from SMECO that once a bulb is used completely there is no environmental hazard. Mr. Calvano stated he would contact SMECO again and try to get literature on this for the next meeting.

d. LUGM Critical Area Update

1. Chapters 40, 41, 71, and 72 – Mr. Wheeler stated the drafts are expected to be available January 14, 2009. Mr. Wheeler asked if everyone reviewed the chapters. Mr. Wheeler stated the chapters should be read from the perspective of a person about to build a home or shed, etc within these zones. Mr. Wheeler stated we should be able to make sense out of the regulations. Mr. Wheeler stated the COE review should be done objectively from the point of an applicant, and that we also attempt to make sure that each rule is grounded in solid conservation/environmental rationale.

2. Framework for COE to Review CA Material – None

e. Wind Turbines – Next Meeting

IV) New Business:

a. Cistern, Septic and Solar Initiatives – Next Meeting

b. 2009 Green Building Forum – Mr. Wheeler advised the forum will be held March 14, 2009. The group felt that we should consider including a discussion of the Survey results as part of the Forum. Ms. Kelsey recommended advertising the presentations this year stating someone may attend just to see a specific presentation.

V) Inactive Issues

a. Climate Change

b. Green Building Subcommittee

c. Rapid Transit for the County

VI) Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.