

COMMISSION ON THE ENVIRONMENT (COE) MINUTES
Potomac Building
Minutes of January 4, 2012

COE Members present were Mike Thompson, Barne Wheeler, Heather Moritz (SMHD), Laura Friess , Steve Tripp and Mindy Johnson. Memembers absent were Lawrence Langley, Marta Kelsey & Paul DiBenedetto. Others present were Paul Waxman.

- I) Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.
- II) Discussion & Approval Meeting Minutes:** The December meeting minutes were approved.
- III) Continuing Business:**
- a. **COE/Plumbing Board Expo Discussion.** The following observations related to the COE's table and participation at the Expo:
1. The group agreed that the April 21 date was better, as it allowed the Tech Center to be used and came just before Earth Day.
 2. The COE would attempt to get raffle prizes. Mike Thompson volunteered to solicit from the Hollywood/California area and Laura Friess would check with SMECO.
 3. Steve Tripp suggested getting the Chamber of Commerce involved for possible attendance. He will provide POC and supply to Jada Stuckert.
 4. The discussion then focused on what the COE Table should contain.
- b. **Possible COE Table Displays, Events, Activities:**
1. Have a planting w/ seeds, dirt & paper cup for children.
 2. Have a mock up of a composting system – comment maybe from DPW&T?
 3. Have an explanation of plan MD and/or Watershed Implementation Plan.
 4. Take pictures of kids with their green idea and posting on screen using computer like last year.
 5. Info on septic system grants.
 6. Handout explaining how children can measure their household's carbon footprint when they get home.
- c. **Other Items Covered.**
1. **Impervious Surface Restrictions in the Critical Area.** A recent request from a citizen asked for information explaining why pervious materials such as pavers were not permitted. Steve Tripp stated that the restrictions were intended to preserve habitats as well as reduce runoff. He agreed to write up information he received from MDE and circulate to group for editing, followed by posting to our web page.
 2. **Web & Facebook sites.** General consensus that both web site and facebook are needed. The first would contain COE data and allow for postings and discussions of various topics. The facebook page would serve as a notification to all 'friends' that new info or discussions are taking place on the web site. Given this, a general feeling that we should have our own web site. Issues of how much latitude would be given for anyone to post a topic or info needs to be decided. Also, relationship to County web page for COE and our role as COE needs to be discussed in relation to the sites. Steve Tripp volunteered to have a "strawman" web site available for COE review by April.
- IV) New Business:** None
- V) Announcements:** None
- VI) Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.