

**Commission on the Environment (Tuesday, May 7, 2024)***Generated by Amanda Yowell on Wednesday, May 7, 2024***Members present**

George Thompson, Melissa Rodriguez, Molly Boron, Kristen Whitesell, Leslie Taylor, Jennifer Raley, Nicole Bega

**Meeting called to order at 6:30 PM**

1. Call to Order

Action: A. Call to Order

Action: B. Call to Order

COE meeting 7 May

Review of minutes from last month. Kristen moves to approve the minutes from last month, Leslie seconded. Motion passed.

Old business:

- Earth Day - huge success, great weather. 196 cars attended (maybe 500+ people). 30 vendors, Summerseat farm was awesome, they made good money on food. Last year there were only 146 cars so we went up 35-30%.

- Melissa also mentioned it was advertised on the radio

- Mike only had about 25 trees left and they were donated to a christmas tree farm

- Lessons learned: last year Melissa surveyed all of the vendors after the fact

- Summerseat is definitely interested in participating next year

- for next year, need to sync up on when we want vendors to show up (8 or 0830). How early do we want them to show up? Leslie believes 0830 was plenty early.

- Mike asked if the spots were pre-assigned, Molly said yes, they assigned them 2 days prior. We could probably have fit about 10 more vendors.

- Melissa thinks we should get a sign that directs people up the hill from the road to the animals.

- Somewhat of a bottleneck getting out, but it worked out ok

- Review of budget- porto johns: \$137.80

- trees: \$132.72

- native plants: \$318

- printing:

- awards printing: Melissa's neighbor for \$20, Molly will write her a receipt

- nametags: \$106

- shirts: \$331.60

- bird event: \$150

- Melissa paid \$146.97 to boost our Facebook page

- Leslie gave \$195 worth of gift cards to the bands

total budget: \$2,773.

Leslie suggested that we consider reimbursing the bands that played (usually \$500).

Molly suggested we reimburse Dr. Southerland for his time and mileage. Leslie suggested we give \$500 to Summerseat. Leslie then suggested perhaps \$250 per band, she also gave them gift cards (\$195).

Leslie made a motion to donate \$500 to Summerseat, Melissa seconded. Motion passed.

Kristen made a motion to donate \$100 to Dr. Southerland for Safe Skies non profit. Nicki seconded, motion passed.

Mike suggested a net for catching trash to ensure it doesn't go into the bay.

Amanda has to check whether or not donations to their websites will be acceptable for reimbursement.

- if you submit the tax exempt form you will not need to pay taxes (or can be reimbursed). Amanda sent to the group

- other ideas for how to responsibly use our budget? Mailers about turning lights down near water, window safe for library. Amanda suggested we get children to paint the windows if we can't afford the products.

- Tote bags with our logo to give out at our events? Jennifer will get a quote on the SMECO bags and we will compare to a cotton option. We will vote at the next meeting.

Tree Canopy Task force update

Sustainability awards update - we had 3 schools, only two winners, 5 submissions for non-profit (SOMD Resource Conservation).

September 28th, River Fest, 10-4, St. Mary's River Watershed association. We could look at having a table. No cost to participate. Could we do rain barrels or some kind of demo?

Don't forget that we have turnover of board members in July.

at our June meeting we will plan to discuss solid waster management advisory committee duties - solid waste in the runoff, composting pilot...we can invite Jim Gotsch and John Curtis to attend.

Jessica Andritz - director of LUGM, sent a memo to Dave Wisekoff with all info we requested for a task force. Purpose of the memo is to ask for support (need at least two commissioners) in order for them to vote.

Any other new business?

Next meeting we will vote on a path for reusable bags, SWAC, supporting River Fest, discuss/vote on Earth Day becoming an annual event that we host. Amanda will give feedback on whether or not we can make donations and get reimbursed. Nicki will bring info on doing the bird safe event at the Lexington Park library.

Leslie motions to adjourn, Melissa seconded, motion passed.

6. Adjourn

Action, Discussion: A. Adjourn at 8:00 PM

June Meeting Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee - Invite Jim Gostch John Curtis

Riverfest

Bags

Earth Day Annual Event

Officers

Mtn. Leslie -, Melissa 2nd - All