

# Sustainable Poolesville

## Meeting Minutes

January 27, 2022 (via Zoom)

APPROVED 3/23/22

### Attendees:

Don Street, Joyce Breiner, Maria Bowman, Jane Harris, Thomas Jagodits, Danny Embrey, Ed Reed

Guests: Ciaran M.

### Call to Order:

Don called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm

### 1. Announcements:

The next meeting will be February 23rd, 2022.

### 2. Approval of minutes:

Minutes from the November 24, 2021, meeting approved unanimously.

### 3. New Business:

#### Maryland Sierra Club clean energy resolution

The Sierra Club has contacted us to discuss whether we would be willing to develop a clean-energy resolution that aligns with their sample resolution. Don spoke with the Sierra Club representative, and mentioned that we are undergoing a planning process at the town level, and that any commitment we might make would depend on the outcome of that process. It was also discussed that Poolesville may already be close to meeting the goals of the sample resolution and/or have set goals that eclipse those set in the sample resolution.

Next steps: Keep as old business; table as we gather more information about appropriate goals and realistic timeline. Consider if we need to revisit/adapt to our needs as we develop new goals at the town level.

#### Gasoline-powered lawn equipment

Joyce noted that she received an email from a town resident who was eager to voice support for a ban on gas-powered lawn equipment. However, she also noted that the county is in the process of writing a bill addressing this topic that will go to the county council—and that it probably doesn't make sense to address this at the town level at this time. At this point, Joyce suggests that it makes sense for us to wait and see what happens at the county-level and then decide at the town level whether we participate in the county ordinance (as in the case of the pesticide ban).

#### Montgomery County EV Co-op.

Joyce noted that she participated in the launch of the Montgomery County Electric Vehicle Purchasing Cooperative Pilot last week (<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/green/zev/index.html>). The first phase of the pilot is to collect pledges from county residents that they will purchase electric for their next vehicle. Joyce suggested that this may be worth advertising on the town website, on the sign at town hall, or via water bill fliers—as well as considering whether there are opportunities to tie this initiative to purchasing decisions for our town vehicle fleet as part of our Sustainable Maryland certification.

Next steps: Ed to discuss with Jim to see if Sustainable Poolesville (Joyce and Don?) can get 10 minutes at one of the upcoming Commissioners' meetings to present ideas around supporting the co-op.

#### **4. Old Business:**

##### 2024 Action Plan

Don noted that there is nothing that needs immediate attention related to the action plan, although we are still discussing ideas related to the pesticide-free zone. May circulate some ideas for things to look into that relate to that and other ideas in the County Action Plan.

##### Stevens Park/Collier Pond Pollinator Habitat (Jane)

Tabled for now. Keep as old business.

##### Recycling Bins for Parks

Don plans to raise this again with Tony/Wade, despite transitions in the Town Manager position, to see where we can go with this spring.

##### Comprehensive Plan presentation to Commissioners

Danny noted that he and Ed have a call scheduled tomorrow with Jay (town attorney) to talk about what types of language could be added to the master plan to further our goals as the Sustainable Poolesville Committee. This followed from an exploratory call between Danny and Martin (Radigan). If committee members have any questions or suggestions for Danny before the meeting tomorrow, they should send them via email—and Danny will follow up with a report out at the next meeting.

Other: Ed plans to follow up to let us know whether the survey being shared by Protect our Poolesville is the formal survey by the town, or a supplemental survey by POP or another outside group.

##### County Climate Action Plan

Don encourages all to continue reading through the County Climate Action Plan to see if there are elements we can apply locally or adopt as part of our planning process. Ed noted that he continues to think it's important that we stay involved with the Planning Commission so we can provide input on the town planning process at different stages. Don agrees—and thinks it would be nice if we were approached/consulted to give feedback on specific elements that the Commissioners and the Planning Commission think would be relevant to us. This helps us stay in the loop.

#### **5. Public comments:**

Ciaran M. provided several updates on John Poole Middle School environmental club:

- Several new members
- Had first meeting today (now have an 8th grade lead and a 7th grade lead for the club)
- Planning a battery recycling drive (Joyce provided feedback on details related to this and caution with protocols)
- Planning a couple of (road) cleanups later in the year—these are on hold until it warms up. Joyce noted that Poolesville Green would get in touch as soon as they had their road segment assigned.

Additional: Jane—what you can recycle

questions—how do we help get that information to the town and best practices?

can we prioritize recycling education

dual stream vs. single stream—town determines—and when they do an rfp it's spelled out there

Ed: there was a trash survey . will take a look and see if we can share. going to point us to commissioners meeting when Tony presented—january 3rd meeting under new business—town manager report.

can we follow up with education based upon the survey results?

**6. Other:**

Conversation around what can be recycled and around need for education in the town about recycling

**7. Adjournment** at 8:15 pm

Submitted by: Maria Bowman