

**APPROVED 4/26/23**

**Sustainable Poolesville Committee Meeting Minutes**

March 22, 2023

Poolesville Town Hall, 7:00 pm

**Present:** Don Street (Chair), Erika Reed, Joyce Breiner, Ed Reed, Jane Harris (via Zoom), Krish Balla (via Zoom), Danny Embry (Vice Chair), Soledad Aguilar, Markus Rauschecker

Meeting called to order @ 7:10 pm

**Announcements:** Next meeting will be April 26, 2023

**Previous meeting minutes:** Minutes for the February 22, 2023 meeting were approved unanimously.

**New business:** Some discussion on the Dickerson incinerator and rumors of possible plans for its future shut down. Information is sketchy at this time, but the County Executive has indicated he is in favor of closing the facility down. There is a plan to build a biowaste processing facility somewhere in Maryland that would convert food waste into methane which farmers would use to heat their livestock buildings. Specifics about the project were not available.

**Old Business:**

Pollinator Meadow Project – Per Jason Woodman’s mom, the project is moving along well with a planting date of Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup>. The start time was been moved up to 9:00 to try to get ahead of inclement weather predicted for the the day, and they are expecting a good turnout. Signage previously presented to us will be installed at various points around the edge of the area. Jane and Don indicated they will be attending.

Sierra Club resolution – The final version of the resolution is ready to give to the Commissioners for review and approval. Don will forward it to Wade so it can be placed on the agenda in April.

Litter initiative (Pick It Up Poolesville) – Erika reported the first event was held on March 11<sup>th</sup>, and there will be eight additional dates over the next couple of months. The Town pushed the sign up information out via social media/website and the response has been good.

Comprehensive Plan – Danny reported his appearance at the last Planning Board meeting went well, however, it was clear there was a misunderstanding about our intentions regarding sustainability issues being included in the plan. Ed suggested there may need to be a meeting of the Board/Commission/Committee chairs to improve communication between the groups and to avoid missed opportunities in the future. The situation with the crumb rubber surface at the Dillingham Park playground was cited as an example of how our committee could have provided advice to the Parks and Streets

Board ahead of time. Soledad stated there should maybe be a list of specific issues this committee should be consulted on written into the Comprehensive Plan so there would be less confusion. The consensus among the members here was there needs to be better coordination/communication with the other boards/commissions, and Don will speak to Wade about facilitating a meeting of the chairs. After a lengthy discussion, it was decided Wade, Markus and Soledad would consult with Mike Hunninghake, Program Manager for Sustainable Maryland, to work out better wording for our input to the Comprehensive Plan prior to the next Planning Board meeting.

Composting – Tabled to the April meeting so we can see the Survey Monkey results. Don invited Key City Composting, the company that Gaithersburg uses, to the April meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35