

# Sustainable Poolesville

## Meeting Minutes

March 23, 2022 (in person and via Zoom) **APPROVED 4/27/22**

### Attendees:

Don Street, Joyce Breiner, Maria Bowman, Jane Harris (by phone/Zoom), Ed Reed, Thomas Jagodits joined around 7:25.

Guests: Erika Reed

### Call to Order:

Don called the meeting to order at 7:16 pm.

#### 1. Announcements:

The next meeting will be April 27th, 2022.

#### 2. Approval of minutes:

February 23<sup>rd</sup> minutes approved unanimously.

#### 3. New Business:

##### Spring Fest table

Don raised the point that there may be an opportunity to have a table a SpringFest on May 21<sup>st</sup> (2-7 PM). In light of our successes at Poolesville Day, the committee discussed whether it was worth taking advantage of this opportunity. Most agreed that it would be a good idea, especially if we could rotate who was volunteering in order to share the load. Opportunities to improve our materials were discussed, including developing a handout that highlights our accomplishments and priorities going forward, and making sure we are easy to find on the town website/via the web. Action items: Don will check with Cathy Bupp to figure out how to get a table, and signing up for timeslots/materials will be discussed at next meeting.

#### 4. Old Business:

##### 2024 Action Plan

One Sustainable Maryland initiative that Don thinks would be worth looking into in Poolesville is the public art initiative—something like a local arts council that brings local artists together. Ed and Maria raised the point that David Therriault and Sandy Wright have been developing Riverworks Art Center—and connecting with the local art community via events and convenings at the Locals space. It would be worth learning more about their plans and the legwork that has already been done to determine synergies. Next steps: Ed to gather information about timeline on physical Riverworks site from recordings/minutes of Commissioners’ meetings, and Don to determine what the specific requirements are for this initiative via Sustainable Maryland. Follow up would be to have a conversation with David/Sandy to gather more information.

##### Maryland Sierra Club clean energy resolution

Continuing on previous discussions about the MD Sierra Club clean energy resolution, Joyce noted that she has a couple of concerns. Specifically, she was not sure how well the resolution lines up with what we’ve already done and what we’re planning—however, she likes the symbolism and coordination required to join in this statewide initiative. Don noted that we may already be doing more than what the draft resolution was aiming for—and Maria noted similar recollections from past discussions. Joyce’s understanding was the opposite (her recollection was that the resolution would push us to achieve

more). Next steps: need to undertake a detailed review of resolution at next meeting so we can dig in and figure out where to go from here.

#### Montgomery County EV Co-op

Joyce provided general updates about the status of the Montgomery Co. EV Co-op online pledge campaign. The goal is to get over 1000 people to pledge by May (“pledge” consists of pledging to make next vehicle purpose an EV purchase). As of right now, over 750 people have signed up. The general principle is to document enough demand for EVs in the county to be able to leverage purchasing power to reduce the average cost of an individual vehicle purchase to those interested. The Commissioners did sign off on promoting via the town Facebook page and digital marquee. Thomas asked whether there were any county-level initiatives to promote more charging in addition to current efforts—Joyce noted that for right now, there’s been an emphasis on charger education. For example, some of the volunteers have been doing “charger of the week” videos, and there’s been lots of information being put out there about this from the community. There have been some good public features on local chargers (e.g. Clarksburg Outlets), and another good resource is plugshare, which is a crowdsourced website where EV owners can find charging locations/information.

#### Recycling bins for parks

Don noted that he has been in communication with the Town Manager about this, but that Wade has not followed up yet. General discussion still vague about how we could operationalize this and whether town staff, volunteers, or others would be responsible for maintaining and how this would work out. Next steps: Joyce to look into how this transpired in Bethesda—Ed to follow up with Wade.

#### Comprehensive Plan

General update is that the comprehensive plan process is still ongoing, and that the Commissioners have not yet heard anything from the Planning Board and the consultant working on the process. Thomas asked if we need to update our Sustainable Poolesville action plan as part of this process—Don noted that there were updates made as part of the recent recertification process, but may make sense to revisit whether we can aim higher (e.g. Silver level, which is typically targeted to larger municipalities) in the future.

#### Composting

Joyce raised the issue of composting as something we should be considering periodically, and to discuss as a future agenda item. This was raised as a question to her recently, and she gave them the background on what happened last time this was brought up (approximately 3 years ago). We should consider that there may be more interest in this now, as the market for compost collection and businesses operating in the county may have matured by now. She also noted that the county is looking at composting as one way to reduce the trash volume (longer term)—as part of a zero waste initiative. Ideas: Erika noted that there used to be distribution of compost containers for home composting; others wondered if there might be a way to log interest in this to gauge demand via our SpringFest booth or on the website/digital platform. Next steps: Joyce will follow up with Compost Crew (local composting business) and connect Don so we can get some more information from them about what potential options might be.

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

Erika Reed attended the meeting to raise and discuss the topic of roadside trash in Poolesville, and brought handouts to document the problem. Erika has been picking up large volumes of trash on her walks since the beginning of the pandemic, and is looking for ideas about how to reduce the

volume of trash in and around town. Are there things we could do to work on this problem? Ideas raised:

- Community cleanup day (mobilize volunteers to get together for cleanup)
- Similar to or in combination with above: designate a day to encourage people to clean up trash on their own private property
- Recycling in town and in parks
- Educational campaign, including possibly a competition with an incentive to develop an educational campaign in the schools
- Joyce provided additional details on the county adopt-a-road program, that only operates outside of town limits. Would there be a way to establish something like this within town limits?
- Signs that target littering, or “leave no trace”?

Ed suggested that one action item might be to establish a subcommittee who could make this their primary emphasis, with a goal of fielding some of these ideas, deciding what’s feasible, and presenting recommendations to us. Representation from citizens and youth, e.g. Erika, Ciaran, Poolesville High School Green, Scouts. Next steps: Don is going to check with town about whether a subcommittee is feasible, and reach out to Ciaran. Erika and Ed to follow up with other contacts in the schools (Ms. Welsh (sp?) and high school principal).

#### **6. Other:**

Spring plant sale at the community garden will be on May 7<sup>th</sup>

No updates at present on Sustainable Maryland trainings.

Tree City USA designation—during the last year, necessary steps were not taken to keep our designation active. In order to keep our designation, we would have needed to issue a proclamation for designating Arbor Day (and several other items) around this time last year, which fell through the cracks with town staffing and management issues. Don is working on this, and current plan of action is to proceed with proclamation for upcoming Arbor Day, and add a footnote that indicates that we recognized Arbor Day in 2021 even though there was no official proclamation.

#### **7. Adjournment at 8:48 pm**

Submitted by: Maria Bowman